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1847

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JOURNALS

OF THE

LIVES, TRAVELS, AND GOSPEL LABOURS

OF

THOMAS WILSON,

AND

JAMES DICKINSON.



Thomas Wilson, editor.

“They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament ; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.—Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”—DAN. xii. 3, 4.

“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”—REV. vii. 14.

LONDON :

C. GILPIN, 5, BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT.

1847.

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1847

LONDON:
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ADVERTISEMENT.

Many of the writings which describe the work and warfare of those "good soldiers of Jesus Christ," our faithful forefathers in the Truth, set forth in a striking manner, the efficacy and sufficiency of Divine grace, and continue to be richly available "to the use of edifying." With records of this character, the Journals of our ancient, honourable Friends, Thomas Wilson and James Dickinson, may justly be classed; for although brief, they bear ample evidence that the writers were largely endued with the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit, also that they were bright examples of faithfulness in the occupancy of the talents committed to their trust; and this evidence is confirmed by the Testimonies of their cotemporary Friends, which occupy the pages preceding their Journals.

As these Journals have long been out of print,

(that of James Dickinson so long, as to be now probably but little known among Friends,) it is believed that a reprint of them will prove an acceptable addition to our publications of this kind.

Thomas Wilson and James Dickinson were “true yoke-fellows ;” they travelled much together in the work of the ministry, and were closely united in Gospel fellowship ; and although (as might be expected,) both of them have, in several instances, recorded the same services, yet there is, for the most part, considerable variety in their respective narrations.

In the present volume, the Journals are divided into chapters ;—the Testimonies and Epistles connected with Thomas Wilson’s Journal are inserted in their proper places, as respects order of time, and are, with the Journal, (excepting slight verbal alterations,) reprinted from the third and last Edition, dated 1784.

Through the kindness of a Friend in Cumberland, the editor has obtained for inspection, the Manuscript Journal of James Dickinson in his own hand-writing. On comparing this with the edition of 1745, (the only one which has before been printed,) it was found to be considerably abridged ; and although the omissions seem to

have been, on the whole, judiciously made, yet a few sentences and short paragraphs from different parts of the Manuscript, are now restored, which, either as interesting details or instructive remarks, appeared too valuable to be lost. Excepting these additions and verbal alterations, the present is a reprint of the former edition of this Journal.

With the view of further increasing the interest of the volume, short notices of several Friends who are mentioned by the writers as having been engaged with them in Gospel service, are subjoined in the form of notes.

Although the present day may not be regarded as a bright one in the annals of our religious Society, seeing "the love of many" to the testimonies of the unchangeable Truth, "has waxed cold;" yet doubtless, to a goodly number within our borders, these testimonies continue to be precious. And whilst preparing this little work for the press, the editor has cherished the hope, that under the Divine blessing, it may produce amongst us some increase of concern to be like-minded with our faithful ancestors in religious profession—a plain, humble, self-denying people, who, having "put on Christ," were engaged in his strength, to hold up to the world in great purity, the standard of truth and righteousness; and who, to the end

they might themselves, as a gathered church, become “rooted and built up in Him,” were zealously concerned “to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”

THOMAS CHALK.

Kingston-on-Thames,
1847.

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ERRATA.

- Page xxxii, line 1, *after* "minds," *read* "turned."
,, 29, line 8, *for* "1 John ii. 11," *read* "1 John ii. 19."
,, 56, line 25, *for* "was," *read* "were."
,, 81, line 14, *after* "all," *read* "to his heavenly kingdom."
,, 101, line 19, *for* "elebrate," *read* "celebrate."
,, 118, line 3, *from bottom, for* "and," *read* "having."
,, 150, line 11, *for* "love," *read* "life."
 ,, 183, line 20, *for* "1689," *read* "1699."
,, 214, line 14, *for* "riches," *read* "reaches."

A JOURNAL

OF THE

LIFE, TRAVELS, AND LABOURS OF LOVE

IN

THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY,

OF THAT

EMINENT AND FAITHFUL SERVANT OF

JESUS CHRIST,

THOMAS WILSON,

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE, AT HIS OWN HABITATION, NEAR
EDENDERRY, IN IRELAND, THE 20TH OF THE THIRD
MONTH, 1725, AGED ABOUT SEVENTY-ONE YEARS

TO THE READER.

FRIENDLY READER,

It seems unnecessary to say much here, more than to hint at some particular qualifications, and eminent services of the author, with the end of publishing his works ; there being sundry following accounts and testimonies of faithful brethren concerning him, not only of this nation of Ireland,* wherein he resided, and travelled much in the work of the gospel, but also from Great Britain, which he often visited ; and likewise from America, where he had been twice. To these accounts, together with his journal, thou art referred ; in the serious perusal whereof, it may appear he had the gift of an apostle of Christ ; approving himself as such in his powerful, effectual ministry, and care of the churches ; and in much patience, in afflictions, in watchings, fastings, hard travels, and perils by sea and land, in the wilderness, and also by false brethren. Following his heavenly Captain through many tribulations—preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God freely, not expecting a reward from any mortal man—and having on the holy armour, and “ weapons not carnal, but mighty through God”—he, “ as a good soldier of Jesus Christ,” was made valiant and skilful, to war

* The first edition of this Journal was printed in Dublin.

against the prince and power of darkness, profanity, and spiritual wickedness in high places, to the bringing down strong holds of Satan. He was instrumental in turning many to righteousness, who became as seals of his ministry : and having overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of his testimony, I doubt not is now possessing a never-fading crown of glory.

The memory of the just is pronounced blessed, Prov. x. 7 : and it has been the practice of the righteous, (as examples to posterity) to record memorials of the works of good men, in the Holy Scriptures ; which, by the wonderful providence and mercy of God, have been preserved through many dark ages of the world, and transmitted to us, as a cloud of witnesses, to the great comfort of the godly ; the serious perusal whereof is earnestly recommended to both old and young.

For the like end and purpose is an account of the labours, &c., of this, our late worthy Friend, collected, or gathered up, as fragments that should not be lost. And that thou, reader, mayst thereby be excited and encouraged in the diligent serving of God, according to the measure of grace bestowed on thee, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, (without whom we can do nothing,) and so have cause of rejoicing at thy latter end, in feeling great peace from the Lord flow in thy soul, (as had this our Friend in the evening of his day,) and obtain a crown of righteousness hereafter in the heavenly kingdom, is the sincere desire of thy friend, who wisheth salvation to all mankind,

JOHN STODDART.

THE TESTIMONY

Of Friends of Caldbeck Monthly Meeting, in Cumberland, concerning our dear Friend THOMAS WILSON deceased, who was a Member of the said meeting for some time in his young years.

THIS worthy man was one, whom it pleased the Lord to call out of the broad way and vanities of the world, and make acquainted with the way of his blessed, unchangeable Truth ; after having known many days and nights of lamentation, mourning and sorrow for misspent time, [with earnest desires] that it might be redeemed, and to be acquainted with his Saviour, Jesus Christ ; who, in due time, appeared by his Spirit, to the opening of his heart, and enlarging his understanding in those things relating to the way of peace and salvation. As he abode under the cross, it pleased the Almighty to make manifest unto him, that he was a chosen vessel, or instrument for his service, to preach the gospel, and declare unto others, what great and good things the Lord had done for his soul. Thus being sensible of the Lord's requirements, he gave up in obedience thereunto ; and being largely endued and qualified by the Holy Spirit, he became an able minister, and faithful labourer in the Lord's vineyard ; sound, powerful, and reaching in doctrine, with plainness of speech, (not glossed with

human wisdom ;) very zealous and fervent in prayer, greatly to the comfort and edification of the church. Likewise his godly example in life, conversation, great humility and self-denial, much adorned his ministry. He travelled often in Truth's service, both in visiting the meetings adjacent, and several other parts of this nation ; from whence we have had very good and comfortable accounts of his service, and reception amongst faithful Friends.

He also travelled in other nations, as Scotland, Ireland, and many parts of America ; where divers were convinced by him, and joined with Friends in the profession of Truth. In process of time he was married to a Friend of our said meeting ; and soon after removed himself and wife into Ireland, having prospect of a suitable settlement there, and the unity of Friends therein. And being preserved in faithfulness to the Lord, and zealous for the promotion of his Truth, He was pleased abundantly to bless him, both spiritually and temporally ; and we understand his service to have been great in that nation. Not doubting but large accounts thereof may be given by Friends there, we refer thereunto for an account of the remaining part of his life, labours, travels, and services, &c., not intending to be large on this subject ; well knowing that all which can be said, will add nothing to the happy state of the deceased : but that the memory of the just may remain amongst the righteous, and his footsteps be as waymarks to succeeding generations, is the end of our giving this short testimony concerning this our dear and worthy Friend. Signed on behalf, and by order of our

Monthly Meeting, held at Wood-Hall, the 20th of the Second Month, 1726 :—

Joseph Peacock,
Thomas Lamb,
William Scott,
John Sowerby,
Robert Gill,
Jacob Nicholson,
John Scott,

William Greenup,
John Scott,
Thomas Scott,
George Bewley,
Benjamin Bewley,
Samuel Peacock.

THE TESTIMONY

Of Friends in Ireland, from their National Half-Year's Meeting, held in Dublin, the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th days of the Third Month, 1726, concerning that worthy elder and eminent minister in the church of Christ, THOMAS WILSON, deceased.

IT hath pleased Almighty God, the Fountain of all mercies, from whom every good and perfect gift doth come, in the riches of his love, not only to gather his church and people, but also to bless and favour them with many peculiar blessings ; and particularly by raising up, gifting and qualifying many for a public ministry, and in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit, sending them forth to declare the way of life and salvation ; whereby they became instrumental to turn many to righteousness, and for the building up and settling his church in the most holy faith, to their comfort and edification : of the

number of which, this our dear deceased friend was one, and none of the least. The Lord was pleased to send him into this nation to preach the everlasting gospel, first in the year 1682. He was several times here in the work of the ministry, before he came to settle in this nation, which was about the year 1694 : and many of us can say, from a sensible knowledge we had of his diligent labour and eminent services in the work of the gospel, that he was one whom the Lord gifted with a large gift in the ministry, and made him instrumental for the convincing of many.

His doctrine was sound, plain, living, powerful and reaching, frequently attended with a heavenly sweetness : and when he had drawings on his spirit to go forth in public service, he was careful in waiting to know the Lord's acceptable time, in which he freely gave up, preferring Truth's service before his own worldly concerns ; and when he found his spirit clear of the service he was engaged in, he was careful to return with what expedition he could. He was often divinely opened to declare the mysteries of life and salvation, as also to lay open the mysteries of iniquity, and to declare against a false ministry ; he was likewise made skilful in dividing the word aright, and to feed the flock in due season.

His ministry was sharp against the rebellious, but comfortable and consolating to the mourners in Zion and babes in Christ. The Lord richly endued him with the spirit of prayer and supplication ; in which he was often drawn forth in great tenderness and fervency of spirit on behalf of Christ's church and people, also for their offspring in a particular manner ;

likewise in behalf of kings and rulers, and men in authority, with mankind in general.

He was a good pattern of plainness and humility : diligent in attending meetings for the worship of Almighty God, and therein to wait for the receiving of that heavenly power which first raised him up in a living ministry ; and was careful not to minister without it : and though he was an able and eminent minister, yet chose to give way, rather than stand in the way of any who had a word from the Lord to speak. He was zealous for the keeping up and maintaining the ancient rules and discipline settled in the church in the beginning, by our faithful elders, as instruments therein ; advising Friends to a diligent observance thereof.

Much more might be said concerning his great services and diligent labours in the work of the gospel for many years, both in Great Britain, Ireland and America ; which are so well known to many, that we need not enlarge thereon.

And now, though this our dear friend is removed from us, which is cause of sorrow, considering the church's great loss, yet we believe and doubt not it is his everlasting gain. We conclude with fervent desires, that the great Lord of the harvest may, for his work's sake, be pleased to favour with, and continue to his church and people, a living spring of the ministry ; and that many may be made willing to run his errand, and be serviceable in his hand, as was this our worthy Friend ; who departed this life the 20th of the Third Month, 1725, aged about

seventy-one years, and a minister about forty-five years. Signed in behalf of our said meeting, by

Henry Brookfield,
William Brookfield,
Thomas Bewley,
John Barclay,
Gregory Russel,
John Stoddart,
Edward Barwick,
John Boles,
Abel Strettel,
Solomon Watson,
Samuel Watson,
James Pillar,
Thomas Greer,
Daniel Bewley,
Samuel Fuller,

George Rooke,
Jacob Fuller,
Joshua Clibborn,
Mungo Bewley,
Joseph Inman,
Jonathan Robinson,
Joseph Gill,
Richard Sealey,
Thomas Duckett,
Ralph Stephenson,
Nicholas Harris,
Bartholomew Garnett,
James Hill,
Toby Courtney,
John Chrysty.

POSTSCRIPT.

A brief abstract out of the Testimonies of Friends of the three provinces, viz., Ulster, Leinster, and Munster, concerning our said deceased Friend, THOMAS WILSON.

FROM ULSTER PROVINCE MEETING.

He was profound in heavenly mysteries, yet plain and clear in declaring them ; very skilful and excellent in distinguishing matters of faith and principle to general satisfaction of the people, who often greatly flocked to meetings where he came.

He laboured diligently for the good of souls, yet did not run forwardly into service, in the will of man ;

but duly waited for the arising and movings of the word of life and wisdom, which was often eminently with him, and manifested through him, to the affecting and tendering of many hearts, and to the glory of God, the Author and Giver of all good gifts.

He frequently visited Friends of this province ; and the last visit he made to us, was, as much as ever, in the openings of divine love, life, and sweetness in spirit, to the refreshing and edifying of Friends.

FROM LEINSTER PROVINCE MEETING.

His travels and labours of love in the gospel of Christ were great, in frequently visiting the meetings of Friends in this province, and also having meetings amongst people, where no Friends' meetings are settled ; in which labours, for the spreading of Truth, the Lord's power and goodness attended, and particularly at national and other meetings in the city of Dublin. To these, at times, many sober people of sundry persuasions came, to hear the testimony of Truth declared, who have been much affected with tenderness of spirit by his powerful ministry ; and though, at times, he was awfully concerned in warning to prepare for a time of great mortality approaching, he yet rejoiced, in a sense that the Lord would lengthen his merciful visitation, and send plentiful showers of the doctrine of his kingdom, before his judgments [should] break out upon the inhabitants.

He also declared to this effect, That the Lord would send his servants into the popish countries to preach the gospel ; which should prevail and spread

in those dark parts of the earth ; though some might seal their testimony with their blood.

He was a nursing father in the church, cherishing the good in all ; particularly the young and weak in the ministry, male or female, who were gifted and called thereunto ; and rejoiced in that the Lord had raised up such, both in this nation and elsewhere. And though he was an honourable elder, yet very humble and condescending, as a servant to all ; grave and reserved in deportment ; often bowed under exercise of spirit ; yet at seasonable times cheerful, sweet, and pleasant in conversation, both with Friends and others, whereby he gained the love and good esteem of many. And notwithstanding he was an able minister of the gospel, he was careful not to travel abroad in that service without the unity of the brethren ; and when he found himself clear, returned speedily to his outward abode ; and was diligent in his lawful vocation of husbandry, for the good of his family, wherein the Lord blessed his endeavours with prosperity and plenty.

FROM MUNSTER PROVINCE MEETING.

He was a faithful labourer in the Lord's harvest, and travelled much in the service of Truth, being willing to spend and be spent for the gospel's sake : and the Lord blessed his labour of love, so that many thereby were convinced, and became as seals of his ministry.

He was zealously concerned against undue liberty and wrong things ; that Truth's testimony might be kept up, and maintained in the several branches

thereof; that in all things Friends might walk agreeably to the doctrine of Christ and his apostles, keeping in the path of the faithful, without swerving to the right hand or to the left; as being very sensible, those wholesome rules and precepts, wherewith we are favoured, have been given forth in the wisdom of Truth.

AN ABSTRACT OF A TESTIMONY

Given and sent by Friends of Virginia, concerning THOMAS WILSON deceased, to which somewhat has been added by JOSEPH JORDAN a Friend of that place, who was in Dublin in the Twelfth Month, 1726-7.

AMONG the many faithful labourers which the great Lord of the heavenly harvest has been pleased to send from far, with his word and testimony, to visit his people in this colony, our worthy friend Thomas Wilson was one eminently serviceable in his ministerial capacity; being made instrumental to convince some of the way of Truth, and also to edify and comfort many with the word of the gospel, which is a word of peace and consolation; as was very manifest by the preaching of this precious servant of Christ, in whom it dwelt richly.

Some of us knew him in his first visit to Virginia, in company of our dear friend and elder, James Dickinson, which was in the year 1690, or 1691. At that time Friends here were persecuted, and their meetings sometimes disturbed by ill-disposed and

ignorant men ; also those who entertained a meeting were liable to a fine, which affrighted some weak, though well-minded people. One of them had given our said friends liberty to have a meeting in his house, but upon the threats of the sheriff was discouraged, as we understood ; and the meeting was held in an orchard, where a person of note received the Truth, by the powerful testimony borne by our dear friend, Thomas, to the one necessary and saving baptism, which is the baptism of Christ, by his Spirit. So after the meeting ended, he who had thus joined in with the visitation of God through his servant, took him and companion home to his house, and kindly entertained them, notwithstanding the law, which was then severe.

Much might be said of this first visit of our dear friend ; but concluding that our friend James Dickinson will be more particular and large in his testimony thereof, we shall proceed to some account of the last visit Thomas gave us, which was in the year 1714 ; when, notwithstanding his advanced age, he was lively and strong in the word of faith, and preached it with much power and demonstration, to our great comfort and encouragement.

He sometimes spake prophetically in our meetings concerning the prosperity of Truth, part whereof we incline to commemorate. After he had put us in mind of the many visits we had been favoured with by ministers sent from Europe, who had been instrumental to gather and settle meetings in America, he told us, *The Lord would raise up and qualify many amongst ourselves, to declare the word of his salvation,* which is measurably fulfilled. He also said, *That*

*many great men, and many young men, should bow to the Truth in our wilderness-country, (or to that effect ;) which we humbly hope will be brought about in time, and that the church of Christ will increase, and be more and more extensive in this part of the world. This man of God also assured us, in the word of prophecy, That way would be made for the spreading of Truth in the Pope's dominions ; and that the feet of many from Great Britain should be turned that way, some of whom should seal their testimonies with their blood :—*In the declaring of which, and much more, (omitted for brevity's sake,) great tenderness appeared in him, through the virtue and power of the divine anointing, in which his understanding was very bright.

We have cause to magnify the Lord our God for sending this his approved minister amongst us, and for the many profitable and very memorable opportunities we had with him. The account of his decease affected our minds with sorrow, by reason of the church's loss ; especially in Ireland, where he sojourned, and where his removal out of this life is doubtless lamented by the faithful, who had so often and largely been refreshed and edified by his labours of love in the gift of the ministry.

To conclude, we have this testimony to bear touching the behaviour and conversation of our said friend when with us : That it was the confirmation of his doctrine, being the practice of that holy religion he taught with great sincerity and success. And spending the time of his sojourning on earth in fear, he was preserved to ancient years : and now, having finished his day and testimony, he rests from

his labours, and his works follow him. Signed on behalf of Friends in Virginia, the 14th of the Fifth Month, 1726, by

John Porter,
Samuel Sebrell,
Robert Jordan,

John Small,
Gerard Robert Ellison,
Nathan Newby.

A TESTIMONY

Concerning our deceased Friend, THOMAS WILSON, from the Yearly Meeting held at Burlington, for Pennsylvania and the Jerseys, the 18th day of the Seventh Month, 1728.

OUR late worthy Friend, Thomas Wilson, twice visited America ; the first time was about the year 1691, and the last, about the year 1713, each time accompanied by our esteemed friend, James Dickinson. Both visits were serviceable and acceptable ; but the former more particularly so, inasmuch as it happened at a juncture when many were staggering in their principles, occasioned by the opposition and separation made by one George Keith, a man who had been of some note amongst Friends, a writer of many books, of reputation for learning, and appearing as a minister. His peevish disposition, pride of heart, and wrong spirit, soon appeared to faithful Friends, and those he called a party against him ; and upon the arrival of Thomas and James, he endeavoured by fawning and soothing ways, to gain them, who as strangers and worthy Friends, might otherwise be a weight against him : but it was to little purpose, for our said deceased friend soon per-

ceived the spirit and design of the man, and the evil tendency of that separation ; and stood faithfully in his testimony against it, to the re-establishing many, and greatly to the comfort of honest-hearted Friends, who mourned in those times of trial and desolation. Nor was our said friend without a sight of the downfall of that perverse spirit, (as the event discovered,) but at times boldly declared it ; and it soon after came to pass. But enough of this, which had been improperly mentioned here, could it well have been avoided, when we were calling to mind the service and labour of love of our late friend, to whom we now return.

His testimony was powerful and persuasive, and a lively zeal mixed with love attended it : as he was a minister of the Gospel and Truth of our Lord Jesus, he was manifestly supported and enabled by him in that work ; not soothing or daubing with any. His zeal against hypocrisy and immorality was eminent, and his encouragement to sobriety, sincerity, and holy living, very remarkable. He spared not himself in hard travels ; scarcely at any time did he indulge himself in so much rest and ease as his body required. He was exemplary in life ; abstemious and temperate ; cautious of giving just offence to any ; not busy beyond his calling ; and, in a word, a bright example to those who may follow him in the same good work.

Read, approved, and ordered to be signed on behalf of the said meeting, by

ISAAC NORRIS,
Clerk of the said meeting.

THE TESTIMONY

*Of MARY WILSON concerning her dear husband
deceased.*

SINCE it hath pleased the Lord to remove from me my dear husband by death, it hath often been, and still remains, a concern upon my mind to give in a testimony concerning him, which is as followeth :—

Having good cause often to remember the times of our being first acquainted one with another, is now some engagement upon me to give some account thereof.

I well remember, when he was come up to the state of a man, how he was restless in his mind, and earnestly desired the knowledge of the true God ; in which time, he went from one place to another, among the Church of England people, to hear what their priests could tell him of the way of salvation : for then his soul was in great want of a Saviour ; and great was his hunger after the way of life and righteousness. In this tossed condition he continued for some time, looking out at, and after, the teachings of men ; which proved altogether unprofitable to him, to his great trouble.

In this condition the Lord was pleased, in his unspeakable love, to visit his soul with the springing in of his light, and inbreaking of his invisible power, by which he was much broken into tenderness ; and it was then a time of great humiliation and fear : in which condition, he came among the despised people called Quakers. And although it was then a time of great persecution, yet did he sit down with them in their meetings, in silence, until such time as it pleased the Lord of heaven and earth so to fill his

heart with his powerful word, that he knew the burning thereof as a holy flame in his soul : then was his mouth first opened in public prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord ; and afterwards to declare the day of the Lord that was dawned, and to sound the everlasting gospel, which was glad tidings to many poor, benighted souls.

And further, I think I may safely say concerning him, that when he was sensible that the Lord had revealed his Son in him, and that a necessity was laid upon him to preach the gospel, he did not consult with flesh and blood, but gave up unto the heavenly vision ; and was willing to spend the flower and prime of his days in the service of Truth, which he did in many years' travel ; and laboured much in the work of the ministry in England, Ireland, and America, before he married.

In the fortieth year of his age, we took each other in marriage in Cumberland ; and soon after came into Ireland, and settled near Edenderry, he having had, for some time before, some remarkable sight of that place, which he at times would speak of : and we had reason to believe it was our place, for the Lord blessed us together, and we had great comfort in that it was our lot to settle among such honest, tender-hearted Friends, unto whom we were nearly united.

After we were settled, he was often engaged to travel in Truth's service ; and I may say, from a certain sense that rests upon my heart, that the more he gave up to the work he was called unto, the more we were blessed : and although it was pleasant to me to have the company of so good a husband, yet it was more solid satisfaction to me to give him up to

answer what the Lord might require of him. And I may say to the praise of God, that I was made a sharer with him, in feeling the sweetness of that heavenly love and life that his heart was often filled with, and which streamed forth to the comfort of many ; for he was as a cloud that the Lord often filled and caused to be emptied, to the refreshing of his heritage. My soul, with many more, hath great occasion to bow in deep thankfulness unto the Lord, for the many refreshing showers that we have been favoured with ; and to give Him the praise thereof, who is worthy for ever.

And further, I have to say concerning my dear husband, that he was a loving and kind husband, a tender father to his children ; one that was laborious in the creation, and provided plentifully for his family ; open-hearted to his friends, and beloved in the neighbourhood by such as knew him. He often looked with a pitiful eye towards the poor of all sorts, and did administer unto the wants of many. He was one that delighted in justice, and hated wrong things : and although the Lord blessed him many ways, yet was not his mind lifted up thereby ; but he continued unto the end an humble-minded man.

He was often sorely afflicted in body, yet frequently travelled to visit Friends in much outward pain. In his last journey in England, which [occupied] about ten months, he endured much bodily weakness, which continued upon him to his end ; for he went no more abroad, only to our own meeting and twice to the Half-year's Meeting in Dublin. And though his pain was great at times, yet he went to meetings as long as he was able. It was often afflict-

ing unto me to think of being left behind : but what shall I say ? but that the Lord hath done it ; he hath given and taken away. That my soul may be so preserved, in a living sense of his goodness, as that I may praise his name while I live in this frail tabernacle of clay, and be fitted for my final change, and lay down my head in peace, is what my soul most desires.

And now I can say, that the Lord hath brought my mind into quietness and contentment with my condition, and with what he hath done ; stedfastly believing that he hath removed my dear husband in his mercy and favour, and mercifully received his soul into his everlasting kingdom : and shall conclude this my testimony, with fervent desires in my heart unto the Lord God Almighty, that he may, for his work's sake, favour his church and people with a plentiful spring of a living ministry, and touch the tongues of many of our youth with a live coal from his holy altar ; that many may be willing to run his errand, and be serviceable in his hand, as were many of the generation which he hath removed from us.

MARY WILSON.

THE TESTIMONY

*Of THOMAS WILSON'S CHILDREN concerning their
dear deceased father.*

WE find ourselves concerned to give this short testimony concerning our dear father, whom the Lord hath been pleased, by death, to remove from us ; having no small share in the loss of him, he being so

tender and affectionate a parent to us. We can truly say, his concern and care were very great for our growth and preservation in the blessed Truth, and that we might be preserved out of hurtful things ; and also in a particular manner, that as we grew in years we might grow in that sense and knowledge of the holy Truth, which we are sure was precious to him. He was often concerned, in a solid, tender frame of spirit, to advise, counsel and instruct us *to seek inwardly to know the Lord for ourselves, and the work of Truth in our own hearts, that would lead us to walk blameless and in great humility before Him ; saying, That was the way to obtain the blessing.* And as he was *thus* concerned for our good, so we are sensible his fervent desires, prayers, and supplications, were secretly to the Lord on our account, that He might be pleased to bless and favour us with an increase of true wisdom and knowledge in the holy Truth : and we have good cause to believe, that the Lord was graciously pleased (in some degree) to hear and answer his requests, in that he hath in tender mercy and loving-kindness visited our souls with a sense of his divine goodness ; which we fervently desire may grow and increase in and amongst us.

And [we] may further add, that we have great reason, with thankful hearts, to bless the Lord on his account, who made him so great a blessing to us ; and not to us only, but to many more that had a sensible knowledge of him, and of his diligent care and counsel, that greatly tended to the good of souls. This, in the love of God, so prevailed in his heart, that he was made willing to spend and be spent in that work and service whereunto he was called,

(being a faithful labourer in God's vineyard,) that so truth and righteousness might increase on the earth ; not accounting any fading and transitory enjoyment too near or dear to part with for Christ and the gospel's sake. He much delighted to see the youth and offspring of Friends grow up in a living, sensible concern for the Truth ; and [desired] that elders might be good examples and patterns in the church, being careful himself to be found of this description.

We could say much more concerning him, but rather choose to be brief ; referring to other testimonies given, with respect to his labours, travels and services for the Truth : and shall conclude this our testimony with sincere desires, that the Lord may so favour us, through his infinite goodness and divine assistance, that we may thereby be enabled to run that blessed race that is set before us, so as to obtain the blessing while here, and the crown of eternal life that is laid up for the righteous, when time to us in this world will be no more.

THOMAS WILSON,
BENJAMIN WILSON.

*Thornwell, the 1st of the
Third Month, 1727.*

JAMES DICKINSON'S TESTIMONY

*Concerning his friend and companion in the work of
the gospel, THOMAS WILSON deceased.*

BEING a testimony to the sufficiency of the Lord's power, and work thereof, as it is revealed in the hearts of the children of men, in this age of the world, (as well as in former ages,) unto all who have

their minds to the light of the Lord Jesus Christ, so as to believe and walk therein : these come to have fellowship one with another, and know the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse them from unrighteousness, and are fitted for the service of God ; one of whom, was this my dear friend and companion, Thomas Wilson.

The first time I was acquainted with him was in the year 1682, when he had the motion of the Lord's power upon him to preach the everlasting gospel in the nation of Ireland ; he being at our week-day meeting at Pardshaw, where his mouth was opened in a powerful testimony, to the tendering of many hearts ; and the meeting was brought under a deep baptism of one spirit into one body, and drank into one spirit. After this, he soon took shipping for Ireland ; and I having a concern upon me to go into that nation, hastened after him, where we found it our place to travel together, as doth appear in his journal. The power of the Lord was wonderfully with him, and made him as a cloud folded, full of rain, carried by the breath of the Almighty to water the ground. He had great service while I was with him, and several were convinced by him.

In the year 1683, he visited several counties in the north of England, it being a time of great persecution ; and the Lord's power was wonderfully manifested for our* help and preservation. Some officers came to Kendal, where Thomas was then declaring the way of life and salvation, in the mighty power of God, so that the testimony of Truth was set over

* Whilst on this visit, James Dickinson joined him at Kendal. See p. 9 and 103.

all ; and though they pulled him out of the door, yet had not power to take him away with them, but let him return in again ; and we kept the meeting in the authority of the Lord's power, until we found freedom to conclude it in a sense of the love of God, with thanksgiving unto Him.

In the year 1684 we travelled together through many counties in England, and through Wales ; in which journey he had great service, the Lord making him as a flame of fire against sin and wickedness ; and often as a cloud full of rain, to comfort the afflicted. We met with no informer in this journey, till we came into South Wales, at Redstone, (as may be seen in his journal,) where they endeavoured to break up our meeting, and could not ; but, (as we heard afterward,) the Friends of that meeting were very largely fined, though the distress was prevented by means of moderate justices, after the death of king Charles the Second.

And when the said informer came also to Haverfordwest, with a justice to assist him, the power of the Lord was so eminently with Thomas in his testimony, that the justice said, ' If these be the Quakers, I never heard the like ; let them alone.' In the time of this his journey, many were convinced, and turned to the Lord's teaching. He also travelled in the year 1688, through the south and west parts of England, wherein the Lord supported him by his heavenly power, still adding a blessing to his labours.

In the year 1691, we entered upon our long voyage to America, taking shipping at London for Barbadoes ;

and the Lord shewed us things to come, it being a time of war between France and England. It was shewed him, we should meet with the French fleet, (which we did,) and it was an exercise to us ; but our cries and tears being poured forth to the Lord, he stretched out his arm for our help, and wonderfully delivered us, by sending a great fog or mist, which blinded the eyes of our enemies : they took all the fleet, except the ship we were in, and other two. My companion had been exercised three days in prayer and fasting, that we might be preserved ; and the Lord heard his prayers, and restrained the hands of wicked men, so that all those on board were made to confess it was a miraculous deliverance : and even in the time of trial, we felt the Lord's living presence wonderfully with us, to the melting of our hearts, and strengthening our faith, in the sufficiency of his power, that is over all. After which, on a First day of the week, the company of the other two ships came aboard the ship we were in, and we had a large meeting ; wherein the everlasting gospel of life and salvation was declared amongst them ; and they were made to acknowledge it was the Truth.

When we came into the latitude of Barbadoes we met with another trial, in being chased by a man-of-war ; but our eye was to the Lord. The company concluded to fight, and made preparation for it, having their places ordered them where they should be ; but the captain, knowing it was matter of conscience to us, was civil, and bade us go to the doctor if we pleased ; at which the passengers were very angry, saying, ' We deserved to be shot to death.' We told them, ' Christ's kingdom is not of this world, and

therefore his servants cannot fight.' But seeing the captain was so kind as to give us liberty of choosing our places, we would be on the quarter-deck with him ; which greatly confounded those who were so much against us, and gave us an opportunity to set the testimony of Truth over them. It proved to be an English man-of-war.

We landed in Barbadoes the 24th of the Sixth Month, where my said companion had great service for the Lord ; many hearts being tendered under his testimony, and several convinced. His labours were also great in New England, Rhode Island, Long Island, East and West Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, Antigua, and Nevis, where many were convinced by him ; in some of which places he passed through many perils by sea and land, lodging out in the woods in winter seasons ; and the greatest of all was, false brethren ; but the Lord's power supported him over all.

When we were clear of America we took shipping at Nevis, the 26th of the Twelfth Month, landed at the Highlands of Scotland the 15th of the Second Month, 1693, and thence returned into Cumberland ; being filled with thankfulness to the Lord for his wonderful deliverances. Although we went forth weeping, bearing precious seed, we returned rejoicing, with sheaves in our bosoms. Afterwards we travelled together up to London, where we met with Friends from most parts of the nation, who were glad to see us ; and the Lord's power was still made manifest for our help in his service, blessed be his holy name for ever ! We being sensible that without Christ we could do nothing, he wrought all for

us and in us, and strengthened our faith in the sufficiency of his power : in which faith, this my said friend lived, and went through great tribulation, and I doubt not is entered into rest. Our fellowship was great ; and the Lord made us one both in tribulation and joy, being bound up together in the bond of love. .

In the year 1713, we took our second voyage together for America ; and the Lord made way for us, both inwardly and outwardly, and preserved us near to himself and one to another ; we having nothing in our eye but the honour of his name and good of mankind. And I know there was not any thing more delightful to my dear companion than to be under the influence of God's Holy Spirit ; where-with he was often filled, not only for his own good, but the good of others ; he having a dispensation of the everlasting gospel committed to him of God, which he preached freely ; and it was his care to keep it without charge. And though he had a large gift, beyond many, yet was glad of the least child who spake from the motion of God's Spirit ; he having learned to cast down his crown at the feet of the Lamb, for whose exaltation he was given up to spend and be spent. He had great service in this last visit in America ; and was greatly comforted in seeing the fruit of his former labours, and those who had been convinced by him, walking in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I might say much of my own knowledge concerning his great, faithful and diligent labours in the work of the gospel, (of which a small account is given in his journal ;) yet what I have said, is not to

attribute any thing but to the Lord's power, (which wrought effectually in him, and whereof he was a faithful witness ;) to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

JAMES DICKINSON.

THE TESTIMONY

*Of GEORGE MARKE concerning our dear Friend
THOMAS WILSON deceased.*

I HAD some knowledge of him before he was convinced of the blessed Truth, whereof he afterwards became an able minister : in which time of my first acquaintance with him he was light and airy in conversation, much given to sporting and jesting ; having an inclination thereby to make people laugh and be merry, as he then called it. But in a little time after, the Lord was pleased to visit him and break his rest, giving him a sense of the vanity and unprofitable way of living wherein he then seemed to have a life : and in a short time a very great change was wrought in him ; all his mirth was turned into mourning and his laughter into lamentation. Then solitary places became his resort : and the Lord having in some measure opened his understanding, he was earnestly concerned to seek for a Saviour, and zealous in going constantly to hear the priests and some other professors, and would bring a great deal of what he had heard home with him, repeating it over, as willing to feed a little upon it : which proving like husks, no solid food to a seeking, languishing soul, he came gradually to be made sensible by the glimpse of that gospel light, shining in his own con-

science, that all the performances he could attain to in that state, were empty and fruitless, [and would bring] no lasting peace unto him. So in a while he left hearing the priests, and frequented Friends' meetings : and the Lord, in his own time, was pleased further to visit him, whereby he was tendered and broken ; at times scarcely able to contain himself under the great exercise of Spirit that was upon him. But the Lord, who had wounded, was pleased, in due season, to pour healing oil into his afflicted soul, to the comforting and strengthening of his inward man ; so that he had a few words sometimes in the meeting. His appearance therein was in great dread and fear, and his words piercing, being attended with a divine authority ; and several were convinced by him in the early time of his ministry. One instance I may relate ; he was concerned in testimony at the burial of a Friend that belonged to our meeting at Mosedale : the burying-place being near my house, four of my servants, (not of our persuasion,) who were at work a little distance off, hearing the sound of his voice, left their work, and drew near to him ; and they were so reached by his testimony, that, to the best of my remembrance, they never went any more to hear a priest, but were all convinced and came amongst Friends.

He was one whom the Lord was pleased to bring through the furnace of affliction, and make a chosen vessel for his use and service. Being soon called to travel abroad in the work of the ministry, his outward settlement, or place of abode, was little more amongst us ; but this I may say, (I believe with many more,) that when it pleased the Lord to cast his

lot amongst us, we partook of his service which the Lord concerned him in, with great satisfaction, comfort, and confirmation in the blessed Truth.

So shall conclude with my firm persuasion concerning him, that he was one of the valiants of Israel, who hath done his day's work carefully, and is entered into that rest prepared of the Father for the faithful ; and though he is removed, yet his memory will live amongst us.

GEORGE MARKE.

*Mosedale, in Cumberland, the 28th
of the Third Month, 1726.*

THE TESTIMONY

*Of THOMAS PRIESTMAN concerning his dear Friend
THOMAS WILSON deceased.*

THAT the Lord our God, who is the Father of mercies, hath in this day, as in former ages, visited a people, with the day-spring from on high, is signally manifested and experienced ; and that he fails not to answer the desire and breathings of that soul which feels its want of him, and seeks him in sincerity, (however bewildered at times, not knowing where to find him whom it seeks after,) is evident, by his gracious visitation of this our dear friend Thomas Wilson ; who, I believe, did sincerely seek after the knowledge of the Truth, that he might not be deceived. And though his exercise of spirit was great, with strong cries and groans that could not be uttered in words, yet the Lord, who has said, " Call upon me in the time of trouble, and I will hear and deliver thee," answered the desire of his long mournful and distressed soul.

I remember one time at a meeting at Woodhall, a Friend there warned the people, and said, it was a day of visitation to some in that place ; and Thomas Wilson was wonderfully broken in spirit, in a lamentable manner, (as at some other times,) until it pleased the Lord to reveal his Son in him, and give him an understanding of what he should do ; which, for a season, he was unwilling to give up unto. But the Lord's power prevailed, and made him willing to deny himself, and obey the Lord, in declaring the word of life, as required, and which often sprang through him, to the refreshing and comforting of the church of Christ, and conviction of several : also many who had travelled and been afflicted in spirit with him, that he might be preserved and brought through to the praise of God, were made glad ; he often having a word in season from the Lord, to speak in great love and tenderness to tribulated souls ; remembering he had been afflicted, and not comforted for a time.

Much in truth might be said on the behalf of this our friend and brother, of whom I had many times a feeling sense while amongst us ; but need not make any apology for him, whose works and labours of love for God and his people, declare aloud for him, whereby " he being dead, yet speaketh." He is fresh in the remembrance of many of us ; also the dealings of God with him, who raised him from a low degree, and made him an able minister of the gospel, to turn people to the knowledge and obedience of the Truth in themselves.

THOMAS PRIESTMAN.

*Dearudding, the 20th of the
Second Month, 1726.*

A N A C C O U N T
OF THE
L I F E A N D T R A V E L S
OF
T H O M A S W I L S O N .

CHAPTER I.

His Birth, Parentage, early religious Exercises and Convincement—Spiritual benefits conferred on himself and his fellow-worshippers in their silent Meetings—His first appearance in the Ministry—Visits to Friends in various parts of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales—Exercises under the prospect of a visit to America.

I WAS born in Soulby, in the parish of Daker and county of Cumberland. My parents' names were Edward and Ann Wilson, who brought me up in the profession of the church of England, and taught me the catechism, having been sprinkled or baptized in my infancy, according to the manner of that church. While I was a youth I had great hungerings and thirstings in my heart after righteousness, and the true knowledge of the living God and of his

Son Jesus Christ ; in which time I went with great diligence to hear the priests, and when with them, did carefully mind what was spoken : and when I heard of a priest that was noted for a good man, and preached two sermons in one day, I went from our own parish after the forenoon sermon, eight miles on foot to hear an afternoon sermon. And the more I sought to hear, my inward hunger and thirst the more increased, so that I was sensible of great poverty of spirit : and in the time of singing psalms, a thoughtfulness came into my heart, that men should be made holy before they could rightly sing to the praise and glory of God ; and my mouth was stopped from singing with them, through a godly sorrow that was in my heart, with secret cries and humble prayers to the living Lord God of heaven and earth, for the knowledge of the way of salvation. But being yet in the wilderness of men's doctrines, creeds, articles, and outward forms, I could not find true peace in conscience, nor see any bright beams of salvation. In this state I travelled in great godly sorrow, having religious seekings in my heart ; and being weary of the heavy load of sin, as also the doctrines and worship of men's making, my mind was much inclined to dispute about religion with all sorts of professors that I met with, yet still could not meet with or find inward peace of conscience : but many texts of Holy Scripture were opened to my understanding, so that I began to see what was not of faith was sin, even in points of worship and pretended service to the great God ; remembering the saying of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the scribes and pharisees formerly, " Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips ;

but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."—Mat. xv. 7—9.

Thus being made sensible, that too many of the doctrines of the church wherein I was educated, were precepts of men's making, and [remembering] that our blessed Lord and heavenly Saviour had said to the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well, "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in Truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him: God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in Truth."—John iv. 23, 24; this worship, in the renewings of the Holy Ghost, and not in the oldness of the letter, I greatly longed to know, but could not find it, neither could any priest I conversed with, tell me how or where to find it. But after long travail of spirit and great concern of soul, the Lord was graciously pleased to make me sensible, that what was to be known of God was manifested in man.

About this time I went into an evening meeting of the people called Quakers, with strong desires in my mind to the Lord, that if it was the true way of salvation which the Quakers preached, I might have some inward feeling and testimony thereof, by the blessed word in my own heart: and after sitting some time in silence, a Friend began to speak, directing and exhorting to *an inward waiting upon the Lord in faith, to receive power from him over every unclean thought, &c, by which heavenly power men might glorify and praise the holy name of the Lord, through the ability of his own free gift.*—This I understood to be his holy word of grace, which the true apostles of our dear Lord and blessed Saviour Jesus Christ preached, and turned the minds of people unto; and then I

felt my soul much in love therewith ; and smiting upon my breast, said in my heart, This is what I greatly wanted ; that is, power against every vain thought and idle word, being things that troubled me. The Lord's power arose in the meeting, and fell mightily upon me, to the breaking and tendering of my heart ; and a glorious time it was, as the mighty day of the Lord ; so that great fear, trembling and shaking seized me, insomuch that the table whereon I leaned and Friends sat, was shaken. Thus being sensible in some measure of the glorious name and power of the Lord Jesus, I was full of inward cries to this effect, ' O Lord ! create in me a clean heart ; ' for I saw the old one was not clean, and that I had been kissing the letter but not the Son, as advised by the Holy Scripture, which saith, " Kiss the Son, lest he be angry," &c.

And now was a time of the Lord's fierce anger because of sin, he having shewed me all things that ever I had done, and condemned the evil ; so I was made willing to love and dwell under his righteous judgments, being truly convinced *that* was the way to come unto the mercy-seat. And then it was upon my mind, that I must cease from all the doctrines of men, will-worship, hearing the priests, and repeating their sermons, which I had delighted in, and was in the practice of, as religious duties ; it being made plain to me, that I should turn from them, and mind the gift which was in me, and sit down among Friends in their silent meetings, to wait upon the Lord in retiredness of mind, for his heavenly teachings and holy leadings ; in the performance of which inward, divine, and heavenly worship, the great power of God did wonderfully break in among us, and many young people were convinced of the inward work of

God, and turned to the Lord with all their hearts. The Meeting in general became very tender and heavenly-minded, and Friends had great love one to another ; the heart-melting power of the Lord being much felt and inwardly revealed, when no words were spoken by either man or woman. In this state we travailed in the silence of all flesh, and at this time the Lord often renewed our strength in the inward man, so that we knew and experienced what the apostle exhorteth the primitive christians unto, even "Christ to dwell in us by faith," and the renewings of the Holy Ghost increased, and were shed on us abundantly in our meeting, whereby some were so filled, that they were concerned to declare and preach the things of the kingdom of God, and what he had done for their souls. One of the first that came forth in prayer and supplication to the Lord, was William Greenup,* and I was the next that came forth there in a testimony for the Lord, which was in very great

* William Greenup, (who is several times mentioned in these Journals) resided at Flatt, near Caldbeck, in Cumberland. "It pleased the Lord to incline his heart first to seek the kingdom of God and the righteousness thereof, in his young years ; and as he gave up in obedience to the Lord, he increased his faith and knowledge, so that he was enabled not only to believe, but also to suffer for his name. Having a gift in the ministry committed to him, his testimony was living and powerful, and he was fervent in prayer. He travelled for the promotion of Truth in many parts of this nation, as also in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Several were convinced by his testimony, and not only so, but became fellow-labourers with him in the ministry. He laboured to preserve love and unity among brethren, and was zealously concerned for the keeping up and promoting good order in the church, often advising Friends to faithfulness, and to keep to their testimony against undue liberty. And that which crowned his labours, he kept faithful and stedfast to the end. He died in the year 1716, aged 75 years."—*Piety Promoted*, part ix.

fear and much trembling. The word of the Lord, in and through me, was as a devouring fire, burning against all sin and iniquity ; and the Lord made us cry aloud to turn people from all vain worships to the living God, who is a Holy Spirit.

The precious life of Jesus broke in wonderfully amongst us, so that we felt drawings to visit other meetings in the country, wherein the Lord's heavenly power was plentifully enjoyed amongst us ; and several were convinced of the Truth, who turned to the Lord with all their hearts, and joined with Friends ; particularly in our own Meeting, whereby it was enlarged. I was often very much affected in feeling the love and power of God break through the whole Meeting ; and many such heavenly meetings we had, and the word of the testimony, in the Lord's ministers, increased amongst us. I then found further drawings to other counties, and visited the meetings of Friends in Lancashire and Westmoreland.

In the year 1682, it was upon me from the Lord, in a divine opening, to visit Friends in some parts of Ireland. I took shipping at Workington, and landed at Dublin, where I was altogether a stranger. After I had staid a meeting amongst Friends, they inquired which way I intended to go ; I told them, I had a desire to go see some Friends that dwelt between the west and north ; a Friend answered, he did think there was no such place inhabited by Friends, (or to that effect) but if I would see Friends, I must go north or south. This brought great trouble upon my mind, and I became very low in spirit, questioning in myself, whether I was not mistaken in that which I thought was the Lord's powerful opening in my heart, shewing me both the place and people, and wherein I thought I had the mind of Christ, in the

holy vision of life ; and the cries of my heart were great unto the Lord in secret, why I was mistaken ; but after some time, a living hope sprung in me that I was not mistaken, and that the Friends lay or inhabited as I had seen.

A Friend, named Abraham Fuller, spoke kindly to me, and said, he lived near the middle of Ireland, and if I would go with him we might get a meeting amongst Friends at Edenderry ; and in the way I had much peace in going with him. We had a blessed meeting with Friends at Edenderry ; and next day, travelling towards Lehinche, where he dwelt, he asked me if I understood the compass, I told him no, and that I had not seen any compass in all my life-time, but that in the ship wherein I came to Dublin. He was then very cheerful, and lovingly said, he remembered that I had said in Dublin, I would go between the west and north, ' which now,' said he, ' I see is true, for we go even as thou then said ;' at which I was truly thankful to the Lord, who never fails to be gracious, and his blessed word is infallible. For then I like Samuel, knew it was the word of the Lord that called me into his work and service, and shewed me these things before I went from home. We came cheerfully on our way, until we got to Lehinche, and thence to the Moate, where we had a blessed, heavenly meeting ; so to Mountmelick, and had a meeting there, and thence to James Hutchinson's, and from thence to the province meeting at Castledermot.

This province meeting was large, and divers able Friends in the ministry were there ; but I was very low in my mind, and did not go up into the gallery, but sat down a little within the door. Many people came in, so that the place about where I sat was much thronged ; and it being a time that the rabble sort

of people were very rude, several such were there that day. I being under great exercise of spirit, the powerful word of the Lord filled my heart : so I stood up and preached the gospel in the demonstration of the spirit and power that was upon me. The rude rabble were astonished, and became very quiet, and the Lord's heavenly power did shine forth gloriously, under a weighty sense whereof the meeting held and concluded. This meeting brought me into great acquaintance with Friends, unto whom I had before been a stranger ; notwithstanding I understood afterwards they were sore afraid when I stood up, that my appearance would have been very hurtful, but it proved otherwise, to their great satisfaction.

After this meeting I went into the county of Wexford, and visited Friends, having several blessed, heavenly meetings with them in that county : they were a lowly, plain people. From thence I came into the county of Wicklow. Some little time after, the motion of life in me for travelling ceased, and I durst then go no further, but returned back into the county of Wexford, and wrought harvest-work at Lambstown. There Robert Cuppage, a Friend in the ministry, dwelt, who had a concern to visit Friends in Munster, and would have taken me with him for a companion ; but I told him I durst not go, because the Lord had taken away the motion of life from me, as to that sense, and I must wait upon the Lord to know his blessed will and good time ; so I staid working.

In a little time after came James Dickinson, a young man from Cumberland, to visit Friends, with intention to go into Munster, and then the Lord was pleased to open my way to go with him ; and we being both very young, travelled together in true

brotherly love, great humility, and godly fear ; and the blessed, heavenly power of the Lord did often tender our hearts in meetings, as also the hearts of many Friends, and we had a prosperous journey in the will of God. So I saw it was good to wait the Lord's time in all things ; and having travelled through Leinster and Munster, James Dickinson went northward, but I was afraid of running before my true Guide, because they who run, and are not sent of God, can neither profit the people nor themselves. So I staid at work in the city of Waterford about sixteen weeks, and went from thence to Dublin, and staid the half-year's meeting there, which was large and very good ; then took shipping and landed at Liverpool, with my former companion, James Dickinson ; and though it was now a time of great persecution of Friends in England, it pleased the Lord to give us a peaceable and prosperous journey through the meetings of Friends all along in our way to Cumberland.

In a little time after, I, with my dear companion James Dickinson, visited Friends in the two counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. At Kendal some persons came to break up our meeting, and began to pull out Friends ; and in a very rude manner, took out my companion. Then the word of the Lord came mightily upon me, and I was made bold to stand up and preach the everlasting gospel amongst them all. The holy power of the Lord came mightily over the hearts of Friends, and even the opposers were made quiet a considerable time ; but after I had stood about an hour, they came and pulled me to the door. I asked for my hat, and they said, 'Give him his hat, he does well to put it off when he preaches.' And after they had asked me

many questions, I asked one of them, Whether he was a believer in Jesus Christ or not?—He said, He was, and also in the apostles' doctrine.—Then I told him, He never read that either Christ or his apostles did enter into any religious assemblies, and disturb them, as he did us, except Paul, (alias Saul), before he knew the Lord Jesus, for which sin he afterwards calls himself the chief of sinners. So I bade him consider, and sat me down in the meeting, all being very still; and in a little time James Dickinson kneeled down to prayer; the Lord's heavenly power came over all, and the meeting ended sweetly.

In the year 1684, I and my said companion travelled through Lancashire and Cheshire into Wales, and had many blessed meetings both in North and South Wales; in all which way no informer disturbed any of our meetings until we came to Redstone in Pembrokeshire, where a constable, with a wicked informer and several other persons came; and as I preached the word of the Lord to the people, the informer laid rude hands on me and pulled me away. I spoke to him mildly, desiring him to let me speak a few words, and he did so: likewise the constable and those with him, sat down and staid about an hour, in which time I preached the way of salvation to them all. After which James Dickinson kneeled down to prayer, and the informer came to pull him up from his knees, but could not, he being in fervent prayer to the Lord: so the meeting ended in a sweet feeling of the Lord's glorious presence; thanksgiving be unto Him who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

The said informer came and laid his hands on me next, saying, I must go with him;—I asked, Whither?—He said, before a justice;—I asked for his warrant;—he answered, He was a commission

officer, and that I had nothing to do to ask him for a warrant.—Friends told him, it was but a civil question, at which he was very angry ; but no man then laid hands on us to take us away, so we fell into some friendly discourse. I was very pleasant, and easy in spirit ; and walking to and fro in discourse, one of the company said, I smiled, (which they admired at, we being likely to go to prison ;)—I answered, That I came in the true love of the Lord Jesus Christ to visit them, and had nothing but love and good-will to them all ; and turning to the informer, said to him, ‘ If thou was in a journey, as we are, and any man should ask thee to go with him before a justice of the peace, without the king’s justice’s warrant, thou would think it below thee, as a man, to go so.’—This being mildly spoken to him, he gave a sudden answer, saying, ‘ To be sure I would.’—Then, said I, ‘ Consider our case ;’ whereupon, perceiving he had overshot himself, he rode away and left us.

We having appointed a meeting to be next day at Haverfordwest, went thither that night, and next morning to the meeting ; wherein after a little time, the glorious power of the Lord did shine, and that text of Holy Scripture [was opened,] “ Then said these men, we shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”—Dan. vi. 5. And [it was further remarked that] after they had prevailed with King Darius to sign a decree, whereby Daniel might be ensnared in performing his duty unto his God, this righteous man declined not his duty through fear of suffering, but was very bold as well as innocent, as appears in the tenth verse of the same chapter, viz., “ Now, when Daniel knew that

the writing was signed, he went into his house ; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." This subject was preached to the people, as our case ; men having nothing against us, but for worshipping the Lord God of Daniel in his Holy Spirit, according to the institution of our blessed Lord and Saviour above sixteen hundred years ago ; and that in this glorious gospel time, we are to be very diligent and faithful to the Lord, to keep up our religious meetings, even in stormy times of persecution ; referring to that of Daniel, who was blessed of the Lord for his faithfulness ; boldly declaring and affirming, that the Lord, whom we serve in the gospel of his Son, will reward all his faithful children and people ; instancing many proofs out of the Holy Scriptures. The aforesaid informer, and several priests, whereof his brother was one, together with some of the town officers, being at the outside of the house, and hearing these gospel truths preached, were very sober, and staid a great while. Then some of them said, ' Let us pull them out of their meeting ; ' but others said, ' No, by no means, for if this be the Quakers' doctrine, it is good and sound, we never heard the like, let them alone.' So [they] went away, and our meeting ended in prayer and thanksgiving to the great Lord of heaven and earth, who is worthy for ever and ever.

This informer fined Friends very much ; but the Lord, by one means or other, prevented their goods from being taken away, and lastly, by the death of King Charles the Second. After this, no informer troubled us in any meeting where I came, though we had many meetings to visit, as in Glamorganshire,

Herefordshire, Radnorshire, Montgomeryshire, Shropshire and Flintshire ; in all which meetings we had blessed, sweet waterings and a confirming ministry ; and Friends were glad in that the God of peace had rebuked the storm in those parts. Now my companion and I parted for the service' sake ; he went into Ireland, and I travelled northward, and had a prosperous journey through Cheshire, Lancashire and Westmoreland.

Friends at Great Strickland, not being suffered to meet at their usual meeting-place, met in the highway before the meeting-house door ; and the officers came when I was preaching the word of the Lord, but were very sober, and did not break up our meeting. From thence I came home, where my mother and family, with Friends and neighbours, were very glad to see me safe returned, in that stormy time.

After some stay at my outward employ about home, I found drawings to visit Friends in Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire, and had many blessed meetings, mostly peaceable, though the storm of persecution was not yet fully ended. I went into Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Oxford city, where I heard the scholars had been rude, and much abused Friends. I went into that city on a First-day morning, in great fear and humility, being a stranger to all Friends there, and sat me down in a corner of the meeting-house. Friends sat by the sides of the house, and left the middle empty for the rabble (as I thought). We having sat a little time, a Friend began to speak, and had spoken but a very few words before the scholars came in, in such abundance, that I supposed they filled the middle part of the house. The Friend sat down as soon as they came in ; and the meeting being in silence, they began to talk one to another, and

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spy out who would preach; and seeing me like a traveller, said, 'That in the corner;' looking rudely upon me; and thus talking one to another for some time, the word of the Lord was strong in my heart to preach unto them. But I was first to say, 'Sit down young men, we shall be glad of your company so long as you are civil;' which done, they all sat down, and began to listen earnestly what I would say. I preached the way to the kingdom of heaven to be in Jesus Christ, regeneration, and to be born again; and that blessed Jesus taught this doctrine to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."—John iii. 3. And though he was a master or teacher in Israel, yet being carnally minded, he could not understand these things; neither can any carnally-minded men now know the things of God, "For no man knoweth the Father but the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." So those that preach against revelation, they preach against the true knowledge of the living God, and life eternal; for our blessed Lord said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." And this was in and by the Spirit and holy gift of his saving grace that brings salvation; and so went on in preaching as it opened in me. The scholars went away quietly, and the meeting ended in prayer to Almighty God.

I went from Oxford to High Wycombe, and so to the city of London, where I staid some time, and had many blessed meetings amongst Friends; several of which meetings were held in the streets, where Friends were kept out of their meeting-houses, and the Lord's holy word was preached boldly in the streets of that city. Friends were then a lowly, humble-minded

people, and the honour of the blessed Truth was precious to many.

From thence I travelled through some counties, in the way to Norwich, and had meetings amongst Friends ; and an honest Friend [was] with me, that is, Samuel Waldenfield,* who had the way of salvation to preach in the powerful word of life. We had very large meetings in Norwich, there being a great openness in the people of that city and many parts of the county, to receive the testimony of the Lord's Truth, it being a time of convincement. From thence I travelled to Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, and so northward to Cumberland, and had blessed meetings amongst Friends.

After I had settled some time to my outward employ in Cumberland, I went to meetings up and down in that county, and was moved of the Lord to visit Friends in Wales, and thence to Bristol, having a very sincere companion, William Greenup. We travelled together in great unity, and had many

* Samuel Waldenfield, was a Friend highly esteemed for his virtuous conversation and his religious services. He was born at Edmondsbury, in Suffolk, in the year 1652, and was convinced of the principles of Friends about the eighteenth year of his age. He soon afterwards received a gift in the ministry, in the exercise of which he was especially concerned to exhort to *such a life and conversation as becomes our christian profession*, being himself a bright example in this respect. He travelled as a minister in most of the counties of England, and more frequently in the eastern parts, also in Scotland, Ireland, Holland and Germany ; and his labours were made effectual to the convincement of many. He was also eminently serviceable in the discipline of the Society. In the year 1684, he married and settled in London, where he shared in the sufferings to which Friends were at that time exposed. A few years before his decease, he removed to Bush-hill, near Edmonton, where he died in the year 1715.—See *Gough's History of Friends*, and *Piety Promoted*, part v.

powerful meetings in divers places ; the Lord's heavenly power did mightily break and tender the hearts of Friends ; and in the city of Bristol, they said, We came in the same power and plainness that those Friends did, who were the first instruments in turning them to God. It was a time of great humiliation and thankfulness to the Lord, both in Friends and [other] people, of whom some were convinced, and turned to God.

We went from Bristol into Wales again, and staid some time at Haverfordwest, and had many large and heavenly meetings ; thence took shipping together for Ireland, and came to Dublin, where we were gladly received by Friends. And after having travelled through all, or most parts of that nation, where Friends inhabited, and had many blessed meetings, we came to the half-year's meeting at Dublin, where we parted. William went home, and I travelled again into the north part of Ireland, and staid there some time amongst Friends ; so took shipping at Carrickfergus, and landed in Scotland, and had some blessed, heavenly meetings among Friends there. From thence I returned to Cumberland, the place of my nativity, where my relations and Friends were glad to see me well, upon my return from so long a journey, of about nine months' time. I staid here some time, working at my outward employment, and was also at many blessed meetings in this county.

After this stay in Cumberland, I went thence with my dear companion, James Dickinson, into the west of England, in the Lord's work and service : we had a precious journey, being filled with the Holy Spirit, to preach the word of God. Meetings were now very large ; many people came in to seek after the Lord's

Truth, and much desired to hear the word, the strong wind of persecution being ceased, so that there was a great calm. We had glorious meetings; the Lord's tendering, heart-melting power greatly breaking through them. We visited the meetings in Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall to the Land's End; so returned northward in great peace, and visited Friends in Gloucestershire, and Worcester-shire, and parted at Coventry. James went to London, but I travelled northward, and visited many meetings both of the north and east counties; so went to London, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and preached the gospel of the kingdom of heaven. From thence I returned to Cumberland, where I staid diligently at work for a time; then took my leave of Friends, in order to enter upon a long journey.

I first went into Westmoreland, and thence into Lancashire, Cheshire, North and South Wales, and so to Bristol, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Hampshire, Surrey, and London; in which city I met with my dear companion James Dickinson, and was exceedingly glad to see him. We both having had a great exercise in our minds to visit the Lord's people in America, and having certificates on that account from the respective Monthly Meetings we belonged unto, we laid our intentions before Friends in London, for their concurrence; which they received very kindly, and approved of, believing that the Lord had called us to preach his gospel in that part of the world. But the times seemed like to be very dangerous and stormy: the French being at war against England, had a great fleet at sea; and while we were in London, the rumour was, that the French fleet lay about thirty or forty leagues from the Land's End

of England, in the way we should pass. This brought a very great concern upon us, with many inward seekings and supplications to the Lord, if it was his blessed will, that he might be pleased to preserve us. And being strong in faith, that it was easy with the Lord God to deliver us, we trusted in his holy power; and I being in deep travail of soul, had an opening from the Lord, that it was his holy will to deliver us, and we should live to see it; which I believed, and was humbly thankful to the Lord, and told my dear companion thereof with great joy; for we being nearly united in true love, could freely open our minds each to the other. He also told me, that being under a travail of soul, the Lord had showed him, *That the French fleet would encompass us on both sides, and also behind, and come very near; but the Lord would send in a great mist and darkness between us and them, in which we should sail away, and see them no more.* Thus we imparted our minds to each other before we left London; and our openings so agreeing one with another, we were the more confirmed that it was of the Lord. We staid in the city till the Yearly Meeting, 1691, was over: a blessed meeting it was, and Friends' tender love was towards us, many ancient Friends being there; particularly William Edmundson from Ireland, who gave us tender advice, which we took very kindly, he having been in America in Truth's service.

CHAPTER II.

His Voyage to America—Remarkable deliverance at sea—Travels and Gospel labours in America and the West Indies—Sundry Epistles to Friends in those parts.

WE sailed from London to Gravesend, and had a blessed meeting there, with the Friends that accompanied us from the city, and after meeting, took leave of each other. We sailed from thence to the Downs, and the master being very kind, we went on shore, and had some meetings thereabout, wherein the Lord's holy power tendered our hearts together. From thence we sailed to Plymouth, and went on shore, where we had some blessed, comfortable meetings, and Friends were very glad to see us.

On the 9th day of the Fifth Month, 1691, we went aboard, and sailed to Falmouth, where all the fleet put in; and at times we had very good meetings, both Friends and [other] people being very open to hear the Truth declared. After our return aboard the ship and some time of sailing, we met with the French fleet, who gave us chase, coming up under English colours, within musket-shot of us: then the English putting up their own colours, the French began to fire at them. The first French ship that came up was very large, and, as it is said, had ninety guns; nigh unto which ship were eleven more, and seventy sail behind them, as some of our company said they counted. The first ship pursued us, and fired hard, a broadside at every time; and being come up within musket-shot, the Lord was

graciously pleased to hear our prayers, and sent a great mist, with thick darkness, which interposed between us and them, so that they could not see us, nor we them, any more. Then James Dickinson arose from his seat, and took me by the hand, saying, 'Now I hope the Lord will deliver us : ' for he had seen all fulfilled, which the Lord had shewed before we left London. This was cause of great gladness to me, who had been under a deep travail of spirit with fasting and prayer to the Lord, that he who smote his enemies in times past with blindness, might please to do so now ; which the Lord did please to answer ; in a sense whereof our hearts were truly thankful to him. My fasting, praying, and inward giving of thanks continued three days.

Two ships of our company that escaped, came up with us, which we were glad to see ; and the captain of our vessel, being a very kind man, called to those in the other two ships to come aboard his, and have a meeting with us ; which they readily did ; and a large and good meeting we had, giving glory to the Lord's holy name for his great deliverance. So we sailed on our way rejoicing, continuing healthy and well until we landed at Barbadoes, which was on the 24th of the Sixth Month, 1691. Here we found a great sickness amongst the people, but Friends were glad to see us. The first meeting we had there, was at the burial of a noted Friend, where we sounded forth the word of the Lord, a multitude of people being there, both white and black : the Lord's holy word powerfully reached, and broke many of their hearts into great tenderness : the blacks stood astonished, with tears running down their cheeks and naked breasts. We staid above two months in that island, in all which time the sickness

raged ; yet we had many large and precious meetings, to which there was great flocking, the people being very much humbled by the sickness ; and several received the Truth and joined with Friends. So being clear in our spirits of that island, we parted with Friends in great love and sweetness.

On the 22nd of the Eighth Month, we took shipping for New York, and arrived there the 23rd of the Ninth Month, being about a month's time ; and though we had a great storm in our passage, which lasted ten days, the Lord's good hand preserved us. But the captain was very much down in his mind and under indisposition of body, in the time of our voyage ; and said to me, ' We' (meaning himself and the crew) ' should die like rotten sheep ;' I said, ' No, captain, do not fear :' for I saw that the ship would go safe in ; and after some further discourse, he hugged me in his arms, and seemed to rejoice. We accordingly arrived at New York, and had a meeting there ; and from thence went to Long Island, where we had several good meetings with Friends. Then the word of the Lord was in me, thus, ' Hasten, hasten, to visit my great people in Philadelphia ;' so we went forward, having some good meetings in our way thither.

When we came to Philadelphia, there was a great division raised amongst Friends by George Keith. We preached the Lord Jesus powerfully amongst them, and had some labour tending to peace. My companion had it often upon him to warn them all *to keep more inward to the Lord*. We staid some time there, visiting Friends in that province, and had many precious meetings amongst them ; some of which were kept without doors, for want of room, [as there were] great flockings to hear the Truth

declared, although it was winter time. We went from thence into Maryland, and visited Friends on the eastern and western shores. Then we travelled to Virginia, and had many good and comfortable meetings, the Lord's good presence accompanying us from time to time ; and we found a tender, humble people there.

We went from Virginia towards North Carolina, where the floods were so great, that we could not travel on horseback, but waded barefoot through swamps and waters. Friends and [other] people were exceeding glad to see us, they not having had any visit by a travelling Friend of the ministry for several years before. We had good service amongst them ; for the Lord's heavenly power wonderfully supported us under our difficulties and hard travel ; the country being so full of wild creatures, that wolves would come and roar about the houses in the night time. So after having had many good and heavenly meetings with Friends there, we took leave of them, and returned through the wilderness to Virginia ; then travelled up James River, having meetings as we went, until we came to Curles, where we had some meetings to satisfaction, amongst Friends and [other] people.

We went from Curles through the woods to Black Creek, where we had appointed a meeting ; and none having been there before, the sheriff with some officers came to break up the meeting. James Dickinson being then declaring, the sheriff asked him, From whom he had his commission to preach ?— James answered to this effect, ' I have my commission from the great God, unto whom thou and I must give an account.' At these words the sheriff seemed much astonished ; and after they had had some

further discourse, the sheriff swore ; for which James reproved him, and said, ‘ The sheriff should not swear ;’—he answered, ‘ I know I should not swear ;’ seeming then very mild, and said, We had a gracious king and queen, and they had given us our liberty.—I then stood up, and asked the sheriff a question, viz. As he had said, that we had a gracious king and queen, that had given us our liberty, (which was true,) then by what law would the sheriff persecute us ?—He then turned about, and went away. Whereupon James Dickinson spake aloud, saying, ‘ Let the sheriff answer the question :’ which it doth not appear he did, but took the man of the house along with him a little way, and sent him back to bid us go off his land.—I told him, We did not come there without his leave, and both he and the people might know, we had not broken the king’s law, but were there upon a religious account, and if they would have a little patience, and hear what we had to say for the Lord, we would go peaceably away. Most of the people staid, and we had a heavenly meeting amongst them. Several were convinced, and in a short time after, a meeting-house was built and a meeting settled there, which I think is kept there still.

After the said meeting at Black Creek, one Charles Fleming, who had not been at any of our meetings before, being reached by the Truth, kindly invited us to lodge with him that night, which we did. From his house we travelled towards Maryland, having company a little way of the first day’s journey, and then [were] left in the woods : and after having travelled all day, we sat down in the dusk of the evening, to eat a little bread and cheese. My mare went out of my hand, and in a little time I per-

ceived she had found water, at which I was very glad ; and I think I never drank any wine more sweet and pleasant to me, than that water was.

We lodged that night in the woods, and as soon as the day brake, set forward on our journey through the woods, northward ; and as we were travelling, met with two men, one of whom being an ancient, comely man, kindly invited us to his house, where we staid two nights, and had a meeting, though he was an elder among the Presbyterians ; he also lent us his boat to go over Potomack River. The next night we lodged at a poor man's house, and had no bed to lie in : as we were sitting by his fire, he told us that George Fox and John Burnyeat had travelled in those parts, and had meetings on both sides the river, and many were convinced, but several of them fell away. We got next day over Patuxent River, into Maryland, and had many blessed meetings amongst Friends on both sides of the bay.

“ An Epistle to Friends in Virginia and Carolina, from King's Creek in Maryland, the 12th of the Second Month, 1692.

“ DEAR FRIENDS,

“ All dwell in the love of God, by which your hearts were at first reached, and tender desires raised to make your peace with him, which was lost by reason of sin : for it was the love of the Father to bring you to his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ ; in whom you have all life and salvation, as you abide in him, and keep in his love, that draws your affections heaven-ward, where they will be fixed on heavenly things, and where the sweetness of life your souls will witness, for the strengthening and building of you up in that most holy faith which God hath

called you into, and made you partakers of. Every one be careful to walk worthy of the vocation whereunto ye are called, in all fear and meekness ; watching in the light, where you will discern the wiles of the enemy in all his cunning baits and transformations. As every one of you keeps inward to the Lord, you will have salt in yourselves to savour withal ; that as Christ our Lord said, " Every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."

" And as every one keeps to the spirit of judgment and burning, and knows the fire of God's jealousy kindled against every appearance of evil, you will be kept inquiring and taking counsel of the Lord, where you will be safe, and can do nothing against the Truth, but for the Truth ; and the Lord will take delight to appear in your meetings, by his living power, and give you a sense and feeling beyond words, as he hath done unto a remnant of you, blessed be his holy name for ever. There are those who can taste words as the mouth tastes meat ; therefore is it that words cannot deceive such ; but all have not attained this length ; some are unskilful, and have need of milk, which our God will give. If you keep those longing desires that are already raised in you, ye shall know " the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby" from one degree of grace unto another, until you become perfect men in Christ Jesus ; in whom you may edify and build up one another in the most holy faith, by which you will be made heirs of that crown which is incorruptible, and full of glory. For the attainment whereof, every one press forward in the life of righteousness, watching one over another for good, and stirring up one

another to love and good works. Herein God will supply you with the increase of his Holy Spirit, by which you will be fitted for the service God hath called you into ; which is, to be zealous for the Truth upon earth, and against every thing that would cause the Truth to be evil spoken of : that none may be as those spoken of formerly, who walked as enemies to the cross of Christ and were a grief to the faithful in ages past. And such are a grief to the honest-hearted in this day, who are concerned for God and his Truth, and propagation of the gospel ; travelling for the prosperity of Zion and peace of Jerusalem, and know her to be a quiet habitation, and themselves inhabitants thereof.

“ The Lord is making those as watchmen upon her walls, whose resolution is to keep them up, notwithstanding the scoffs and reproaches of such, who, like Sanballat and Tobias, are without the city, Neh. iv ; those who are within, are really concerned for God, and to stand against every appearance of evil, both in themselves and others. And the Lord is enduing them with power and wisdom, proceeding from his Holy Spirit, that they heed not the revilings of Ammon, nor the reproach of Moab ; for though he may go into the sanctuary to pray, he shall not prevail ; but Israel, that wrestleth with the Lord, shall prevail. Therefore let your care be, to wait for the assistance of God’s Spirit, and that none plead for the Truth, and be out of the spirit of Truth, for that will never tend to God’s glory, nor your edification ; but quite the contrary, [even] to darken, veil, and oppress the seed of God, one in another. But as all keep low in their respective gifts, waiting to know the assistance of God’s Spirit, still being nothing without it, you will feel the Lord to work all your works, both in you and for you,

and give power to answer what he requires of you ; and then his love will be increased unto you, and you will abide in favour with him. As you are here preserved, an increase of the life of Truth you will daily witness, which will occasion praises to be sounded forth to the Lord God and the Lamb, who are blessed for evermore. Amen.

“P. S.—Now, dear friends, we desire you, in the love of God, as it was our advice when present with you, that you watch one over another in love, and keep in a Christian spirit, forgiving one another, if any brother have any thing against another ; as God for Christ’s sake doth forgive you, so forgive one another ; and take the advice of the apostle, ‘Be not children in understanding, but in malice be ye children,’ that marks of true disciples you may bear, and manifest yourselves to all men to be such ; that preachers of righteousness you may be to the world, that lies in wickedness ; and follow after those things that make for peace, and eschew the contrary ; and the God of peace will bless you, and keep you from evil that it hurt you not, to his glory and your comfort. Amen.

“Note.—Let copies of this be taken and read in your meetings, and a copy be sent to Carolina. So remain your friends and brethren in the Truth, letting you know that we are well, with love to you all, sending these lines as a token thereof. Farewell.

“THOMAS WILSON,
“JAMES DICKINSON.”

Being clear of those parts, we went towards the lower counties of Pennsylvania, and so to the Yearly Meeting at Salem in West Jersey, which held several

days ; the Lord's holy power was largely manifested therein, and Friends were in great love and unity. From thence we went to Philadelphia, where we found the difference between George Keith and Friends broken out to an open separation ; he having gathered a company to himself, and set up a separate meeting, which was cause of great exercise to faithful Friends : and he seeing we did not go to his meeting, sent us a challenge to dispute, which we readily complied with, and had a meeting with him and his party, a great many faithful Friends accompanying us. We sat a while in silence to hear his charges against Friends, viz. that some of them were not sound in faith, doctrine, and principle ; but did not prove it, nor suffer Friends to answer him, but went on in railing. We made remarks, though said nothing, which raised a great desire in him and his abettors, to have another meeting with me and my companion. This we readily agreed to, provided some faithful Friends went along with us, to bear witness ; for I knew that the like separate spirit, which had appeared in England, was a lying spirit.

Some time after, having divers Friends along with us, we met again with the said George Keith and the chief of his abettors ; and being quietly set to hear what he had to say, he advanced his former charge against Friends, as being unsound in faith, doctrine and principle ;—unto which I answered, saying, ‘ No error in faith, doctrine, or principle, of particular men or persons, was a sufficient reason for him to set up a separate meeting.’—He opposed me ;—then I asked liberty to be heard, and told him to this effect. ‘ If he and his company were sound in faith and doctrine, and men of God, they should have kept up their testimony for the Lord in the meeting ; and if

there must have been a separation, such unsound men or persons would have gone away from Friends, as those did formerly, of whom John said, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would, no doubt, have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."—1 John ii. 11. I also asked them, 'Wherever they knew faithful Friends in England leave their meeting, and set up a separate meeting?'—Thus we left the dispute at that time, and went to visit the meetings of Friends in the Welsh track or plantation, and to and fro in the country; so returned again to Philadelphia, and had a third meeting, (very large) with Keith and his party. I told them, 'They were gone from the Lord in an airy flourish, and the wit of man, and had set up a separate meeting; but in a little time the Sun of Righteousness would shine amongst them, and drive away the misty doctrines of men, and that they, (meaning the Separates,) should dwindle, die away, and come to nothing; except such who were most honest towards God, who should return to Truth and Friends;'—which, in a little time, was fulfilled in both respects.

Now leaving Friends at Philadelphia, we went into the country to a meeting, to which George Keith came: he asked me where we would be on the First-day, saying also, that he had appointed a meeting to be next First-day at Crosswicks; and finding freedom, I went thither: but my companion, James Dickinson, found drawings from the Lord to go to Philadelphia, and be at the meeting there that First-day. Thither George Keith came, contrary to his appointment; and, leaving his separate meeting, met with Friends in their large meeting-house, and preached

fawningly, as though he and James Dickinson were in unity. But after he had done, James stood up in great authority in the Lord's power, and confuted George's doctrine and practice, setting Truth over him and his party, and opened the mystery of salvation to the people to their great satisfaction. After which, George Keith went away in great wrath; and the people, who were not Friends, being many, cried aloud, 'Give way, and let the devil come out, for the little black man from England has got the day.' After which, George called his party together to their meeting-house, and told them, that James Dickinson had never appeared against him till that day, but had then made himself equal with Thomas Wilson, (meaning in opposition to him, &c.)

After this meeting, James Dickinson came to me at Crosswicks, from whence we travelled through Jersey, and to the Yearly Meeting at Flushing on Long Island, which was a large and blessed meeting; and after having visited Friends in that island, and had good service for the Lord amongst them, we travelled through the country till we came to Rhode Island, and were at the Yearly Meeting there, which was very large and heavenly; the Lord's tendering power came mightily over it. We travelled from thence through New England, till we came to Boston; and after having had some service for the Lord there, we travelled into the eastern parts of the country. The Indian war being very hot at Hampton, and thereabout in the country, many of the people were gone into garrisons; and it was upon us to go to a garrison, which we did, and had a meeting near it at a Friend's house. After which meeting, we returned back to Salem, where Friends were glad to see us safe; several having been murdered on the

road, and some that same day. We went from thence to Boston again, and inquired if any ship was bound from thence to Barbadoes ; and there being one, but not fully ready, we went to Rhode Island again, and had several good meetings amongst Friends there : so parting with them in great love and tenderness, we returned to Boston.

“ An Epistle to Friends in Pennsylvania.

“ DEAR FRIENDS,

“ Our love in the Lord Jesus Christ tenderly salutes you all, in the spring of divine love, as those that desire your growth and settlement in God’s everlasting Truth, which God, in his rich mercy, hath made you sensible of, and gathered you into ; wherein you have found great peace with God, and sweet unity one with another ; so that your hearts have been filled in your assemblies with his living presence, which hath occasioned praises to spring unanimously unto the Lord.

“ Dear Friends, Truth is the same that ever it was, and the power of it as prevailing as ever ; and where it is kept to, and dwelt in, hath the same effect as ever ; as many of you are witnesses, who keep your habitation therein ; with whom our souls are bound up in God’s everlasting covenant of light ; in which, as we walk, we have true fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all unrighteousness. So all be careful to walk in the light, where there is no occasion of stumbling, but every one will see their way in the Lord, and where your fellowship will be increased with him, and one with another : and the marks of true disciples you will bear to the world, if ye love one another ; for ‘ God is love, and he that

dwellevh in love, dwelleth in God : he that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness, even until now."—"For if a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar," 1 John ii. 9 ; iv. 16, 20. Therefore we desire you may follow those things that make for peace, and eschew the contrary ; all keeping down to your own gifts, travelling with the seed, and for the coming of it up into dominion, in all your hearts ; that you may know your wills truly subjected to the will of God. Here you will be kept in a holy dread and pure awe, in all your meetings ; and in your lives and conversations you will be preachers of righteousness, and tender of God's glory, watching one over another for good, and none for evil ; but that eye will be plucked out. And as you are here kept truly bowed down, still waiting to feel the operation of the power of God, that was before the power of the devil, you will feel the Arm that gathered you to be about you, and keep you in all trials and exercises, as many have done to God's glory and their comfort ; so that they can say, the same Arm which gathered them, hath still kept them unto this day, in unity with the Lord, and in fellowship one with another. [These] are concerned to be kept "in the unity of the Spirit," which is the "bond of peace ;" and they grow sound in the faith and in charity, and know the virtues of charity, that "seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil ; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth," 1 Cor. xiii. 5, 6, without which, the apostle concluded, he was but "as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal," though he had never so large gifts without it.

"So, dear Friends, what gifts soever you have received, be careful that you be improving them to

the honour of the Giver, as those that know an account must be given unto Him, who will require it of us all ; and how near that time is to any, may be out of the sight of most of us.

“ Our souls are concerned for you, that you may all grow in grace, and increase in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and obedience unto him ; for it is those that do his will that will know of his doctrine, John vii. 17. His doctrine is known to such, to drop as the dew, and his speech to distil as the small rain ; blessed be his name for ever. He is daily opening the divine mysteries of his kingdom to them who are kept humble and low before him, truly desiring to keep at Wisdom’s gate ; who wait for counsel from the Lord every day, and to feel the assistance of his Spirit, and dare not move until the Lord go before and draw them forward. These walk safely, and feel their peace to flow as a river : and the Lord establisheth their goings, that they are not easily moved with any storm or wind, but know the Rock, and are as the dove that maketh her nest there : and though such may be tried, and lie as amongst the pots, yet shall they come forth more bright, “ as the dove whose wings are covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold,” and shall know the trial of their faith to be more precious than that of gold that perisheth.

“ So all keep to the word of God’s patience, and wait for the feeling of his power in all your meetings, that your hearts may be kept tender thereby ; and a godly care will be more and more raised in you all, to watch over your children, and train them up in the fear of the Lord, and to discharge your duty in restraining them out of the ways and fashions of the world. Our souls are concerned for your tender

children, that as they grow in years, they may grow in grace and be God's children, succeeding you in the way of righteousness, and be a blessing unto you in your old age ; for we are sensible God's great love is unto them, and several of them were reached by his power when we were with you. Our bowels of love roll unto you and them, that you all may be kept by the power of God out of evil, in that life wherein you may find acceptance with him ; where the streams of his love will be daily opened unto you ; and in the sense of it you will be engaged to walk in fear before him, as those that feel his preserving arm to be with and support you ; which, God of his infinite mercy grant for you all, is the sincere breathing of your friends and brethren, in the kingdom, patience, and tribulation of the Lamb ; with hearts full of love unto all the faithful ; desiring your prayers to God for us, unto whom we commit you, with our own souls, who is only able to keep us from falling ; to whom be all fear, obedience and worship, both now and evermore. Amen.

“ THOMAS WILSON,

“ JAMES DICKINSON.”

“ *From Rhode Island,
the 5th of the Fifth Month, 1692.*”

On the 17th of the Sixth Month, 1692, we took shipping at Boston for Barbadoes ; and after we had been about two or three days at sea, the ship being new, sprung a leak ; and part of our lading being tar, some ran out of the barrels into the hold, and our pumps clogged, so things looked very dangerous. I stripped myself to work at the pump, and James went with the captain to search the hold, where they found a treenail hole that the carpenter

had left unfilled up ; and after they had got it stopped, through the Lord's great mercy we arrived safe at Barbadoes. Some time before we went in, it fell thick, dark weather, continuing so all the forenoon ; but about twelve o'clock the sun broke out, and our sailors got an observation ; immediately after which, the mist struck in again, and the darkness was so great, that although there was a privateer which had laid several days in that latitude, we escaped her, and got well in. So that we saw the same Hand which preserved us in our first going there, by bringing in a thick mist, had again preserved us in like manner, a second time ; which was cause of great joy to us and Friends on the island, who gladly received us.

We landed at Barbadoes on the 2nd day of the Eighth Month, 1692, where we staid some time, and visited Friends' meetings thoroughly, and had good service for the Lord ; the sickness which was in the island at our first coming, still continuing, whereby the people were very much humbled ; and their exercise was further increased by a plot the blacks had laid to murder the white people, which was discovered in manner following :

A certain man having a black servant, whom he respected, called him in and gave him a dram ; where-with he was so well pleased, that upon his going out, he said to himself, ' My master is a very good man, great pity to kill my master ;' and being overheard, some made information thereof to his master ; upon which he had him apprehended, and examined before the governor, but he denied all. However, they sent him to prison, and set a private watch to see if any of the blacks would come to speak with him, which several did privately, and charged him

not to confess, [telling him] a great many hundreds would come and rescue him out of prison, and also go on with the massacre ; which occasioned him to be brought again before the governor ; and then he confessed the whole plot, which was to ‘ To kill all the white men on Sunday night, and to seize the fort, shipping, horses, and arms.’ But being thus discovered, many of the blacks were taken and hung up in gibbets alive till they died.

[In the former Editions of this Journal, the following Epistle (without date), is entitled, *Another Epistle to Friends in America* ; but its contents shew that it was sent to, and more particularly intended for, some one Monthly Meeting ; also that it was written about this time.]

“ DEAR FRIENDS,

“ Our tender love in the Lord Jesus Christ, dearly salutes you, and all the faithful in that land, amongst whom we have travelled to preach the gospel of life and salvation ; desiring the Lord may bless you all, and increase his love amongst you, and that you may be kept in his holy covenant of peace, into which he hath gathered you by his own power ; where you have, and do know, sweet communion with the Lord and one with another. And in this you are a true strength one to another ; the sweetness whereof none knows, as it is, but those who dwell in it, and keep to the conduct of the power that gathered them ; where the springs of divine love and life such feel daily opened unto them, which keep them alive to God, and under a true concern for the peace of the church, and prosperity of Zion. We desire that this care may be kept in by you all whom God hath gathered, [and that you may] abide in his covenant

of light and life, and walk therein ; where you will have true fellowship, and know the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you from all sin and unrighteousness, which hath been and still is the occasion of all the strife and contention, rents and divisions that have happened amongst us since we have been a people ; which we pray God to put a stop unto, and keep all his people in true fear and humility in their gifts ; waiting to know their strength renewed in him, that they may stand against the enemy, who labours to scatter God's heritage, whom he hath gathered. So be preserved in unity with the Lord, and one with another, where cries and supplications are daily poured forth to the Lord for one another, as ours are for you ; and we desire yours may be for us, that we may be borne up through the many tribulations we meet with, and that we may have the gift of utterance to proclaim the everlasting gospel, and be preserved out of the hands of unreasonable men.

“ Dear Friends, we desire, as you are free and clear, and have your hearts open thereto, that you will send us a certificate from your Monthly Meeting, of your unity with us while we were present with you, and at our parting from you ; and inclose it for us, to be left at Joseph Groves's, in Barbadoes. We have had good service here, and the Lord hath been with us, to our great comfort, though under great sorrow of soul, for those things which have happened to Delaware, and more especially to see them published in print, to the view of the world, and enemies of Truth ; the publishers of which may expect a reward according to their works ; and God in his own time will wipe away all those reproaches, and ease the spirits of them that travail under the weight thereof. Unto him we are willing to commit the cause, and do

commit you, and our own souls ; so remain your Friends and brethren,

“ THOMAS WILSON,

“ JAMES DICKINSON.”

Being clear of Barbadoes, we went from thence to Antigua, where we staid some time, and had several large meetings amongst the people ; the Lord's power did so prevail over them, that several were convinced of the Truth, and afterwards became faithful Friends.

“ *An Epistle to Friends in Barbadoes, &c.*

“ DEAR FRIENDS, BRETHREN, AND SISTERS,

“ For whom we are concerned in true brotherly love, wherewith God, in his rich mercy hath filled our hearts, unto all the sons and daughters of men ; but more especially to the household of faith, who hath been gathered by his eternal power : the salutation of our love in the Lord Jesus Christ tenderly flows forth unto you all ; desiring you all to keep down to your gifts which God hath given you ; waiting low in his fear, to feel the operation of his living power, to tender all your hearts and open them unto the Lord ; that your spirits may be truly bowed and subjected unto God's will, which is your sanctification, where the springs of God's love will flow, and his life run from vessel to vessel, and the life of innocency flourish amongst you, and the Lord will put his own comeliness upon you, and cover you with his Spirit ; and your delight will be to feel the overshadowing of his presence. And here self will be had in no reputation, but denied by all, and your delight be under the cross, which is the power of God, whereby you will be crucified to the world, and the world unto you. So will the Lord delight to visit your

assemblies with his living presence, and fill your hearts with love to himself, and one to another, whereby your hearts will be kept tender and humble watching one over another for good, and none for evil. That eye that watches for evil, must be plucked out ; for wherever it is, it doth offend.

“ All give up your hearts to God, to be kept by his power in fellowship with him ; then will your fellowship be sweet one with another, being made partakers of the saints’ fellowship, who wrote one to another, that they might have sweet fellowship together ; and their fellowship was with the Father, and with his Son Christ Jesus. So will you know all things that offend, to be cast out of the kingdom : and you will be tender one over another, the strong lending a hand of help to the weak ; and be of Moses’s mind, who wished that all the people were prophets, and would not leave a hoof behind in Egypt ; and not of the mind of him, that would have had Moses forbid Eldad and Medad to prophesy in the camp, Numb. xi. 26, 27, &c., nor of the mind of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, that would have only the men to go and sacrifice to the Lord, but the women and children to stay and not go to sacrifice. But Moses wished that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that he would put his Spirit upon them ; and women and children all must go ; and it is the mind of Christ, our spiritual Moses, that all, both male and female, should come up in their places. And Jacob was tender and careful, not to overdrive the flock, lest those with young should be hurt, and so come to miscarry, which ought to be a caution to us. Thereby learn to keep to the Lord’s Spirit, and wait for wisdom from him, that you may be guided thereby, in your gifts and places in the church of Christ : and

so build up one another in the most holy faith, stirring up one another to love and good works; that wisdom may be justified of her children, and "your lights shine before men, that they seeing your good works, may glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. v. 16. And be ye as a city set upon a hill, where elder men will grow sound in the faith and in charity, teaching the younger men to be sober-minded; and likewise the "aged women, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, but teachers of good things, that they may teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be chaste, keepers at home, that the word of God be not blasphemed," Titus ii. 2: "and that their adorning should not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price; for after this manner the holy women of old adorned themselves, who trusted in God."—1 Pet. iii. 3. So all that keep to God's Spirit must mind those things, and labour to keep their children out of pride, and the foolish fashions that are in the world, which youth are apt to run into, and covet after, and to take liberty one by another.

"You that are parents of children, take Abraham for an example; of whom God gave testimony, that he would command his household after him. So all are to wait for power from God, and stand in your authority in your families; and not indulge your children when they are young, and deck them in the fashions of the world, as soon as they can go, and let them speak the language of the world, as soon as

they can speak, without reproving them, and let them go to accompany with the world, without restraining them : which things we have seen to our great grief ; they have brought bitter mourning to our souls, considering the floodgate of iniquity they open to youth.

“ Therefore, as those who feel a concern upon our spirits for the Truth, and your good, and your children’s also, we are drawn forth in tender love, to desire you to mind the Truth and the power of it, and be taught by it ; and then we know you will be concerned to see those things amended, where they have been amiss ; and we know there are many under a concern with our souls in this matter, which hath been weighty upon our spirits. Therefore in true love we visit you with these lines ; desiring the Lord may fill you with love and zeal for his name and Truth, that you may be valiant for it upon the earth, and in your testimonies for God, and against all that would defile the camp of God and bring his wrath upon us, or cause him to withdraw his holy presence from us, which hath given us life, and separated us from the world’s ways, worships, customs, and fashions. Now as God hath separated us, we are to keep to him, that he may keep us so separated, that we may never join with those things again ; for if we do so join, we shall incur his displeasure, as Israel did, when they joined themselves with the inhabitants of the land, which the Lord had commanded they should not do, and brought God’s wrath upon them. Hereby we may take warning not to commit the like evil, in suffering our minds to wander from the Lord, and join with the world in their ways, worships, customs, and fashions ; or to marry with them, which was expressly forbidden in the time of

the first covenant, and also by the apostle in the second covenant, who said, "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers," &c. 2 Cor. vi. 14, 15. So you may see God's people were to "dwell alone, and not to mix with other nations," Numb. xxiii. 9 : and while they did so dwell, the Lord wonderfully blessed them, so that Balaam could not curse them, nor any enchantment prevail against them ; but their strength was as the strength of a lion and a unicorn, and their enemies were a prey to them. But when they committed whoredom with the daughters of Moab, and joined themselves unto Baalpeor, the Lord's wrath was kindled against them, so that twenty-three thousand died of the plague, which the Lord sent amongst them.

" Oh ! that your zeal may appear in a gospel way, as Phineas's did, according to that legal covenant, to the appeasing God's anger ; that ye may know the Lord to make his covenant of peace with you, and that it may abide with you for ever. For truly, God is jealous of his own glory, and will have a clean people to serve him in sincerity and uprightness ; clear of all mixtures, and linsey-woolsey garments, which are not to be worn in this gospel day, wherein the Lord hath been great in his mercy and love, in causing his glorious light to shine, and giving us the knowledge of himself. Therefore let our care be, to keep in his fear, that we may walk before him in humility, worthy of those mercies and blessings ; that God in all things may be glorified, and our peace preserved with him. Amen.

" So [we] remain your friends and brethren in the Truth,

" THOMAS WILSON,

" JAMES DICKINSON."

" *Antigua, 14th of the Tenth Month, 1692.*"

“Let copies of this be sent to Friends in Rhode Island, Long Island, East and West Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, and New England.”

We passed from Antigua to the island of Nevis ; and when near it had a consultation whether to go in on the north or south side thereof ; and by the favourable direction of Divine Providence for our preservation, we went in on the south side, where we heard that a French privateer, that lay on the north side of the island, had taken a vessel about the same time. We staid several weeks in that island, had sundry good meetings therein, and good service for the Lord. Many of the inhabitants had been visited with a mortal distemper, of which many were taken away, as they told us. There had been four priests on the island before ; but when we came, there was but one of them living : he was a great drunkard and a swearer ; and when the inhabitants came to our meetings, and were reached by the Lord's power, so that they confessed to the Truth, then this wicked priest was very angry, and told them he would come and dispute with us at our meeting on the First day. This being spread through the island, many of the inhabitants of great note came to the meeting, though the priest did not come, but went to the governor to inform him against us. We had a large meeting, in which the everlasting gospel was proclaimed amongst them, and all were warned to repent of their sins, and turn to the light of Jesus Christ. Many hearts were reached : one that was a justice of the peace confessed to the Truth ; he also wrote to the governor on our behalf.

" An Epistle to Friends in Philadelphia.

" DEAR FRIENDS,

" Our dear love in the holy Truth, tenderly salutes you all. By this know, we received a letter from New York, and were glad to hear of your welfare, and the Lord's appearance amongst you in your general meeting, and prevailing by his presence and power upon your spirits, to the tendering of them before him ; a state which was never rejected of him.

"The God of our life keep you all an inward people ; that the weight of his power may be upon your souls, that you may learn in true silence and stillness, where the divine mysteries of his kingdom are daily opened ; and the mystery of iniquity you will see through, and not beignorant of the wiles of Satan : but abiding in the light, they will be clearly discovered, and you will be pressing after the life of innocency, whereunto God hath called you, and which must wear the crown. They who are most in favour with him, make it their habitation, labouring to have their own spirits silenced, and daily depend upon God's teaching. It was our glory in years past to learn in silence, which is since too much neglected by many professors of Truth, upon whom a light, frothy spirit has prevailed ; having a life in disputes, arguments, and words, to little purpose, but amusing and perverting the mind, which ought to be staid upon God, who is the strength and stay of his people, keeping them in perfect peace, whose minds are staid upon him. But such who run into disputes in their own wills and imaginations, depart from the Truth, the sure foundation, and the light whereunto our minds were at first turned ; in which all that walk therein, to this day, are preserved, in sweet fellowship one with another ;

and their unity in the spirit and light of the Lord Jesus Christ increaseth with him, and one with another ; being weighty in spirit, not easily moved. Such see that all the disputes and arguments, even concerning religious matters, which proceed from the will of man, not of God's Spirit, are but as froth and chaff, that will not abide God's fan, but be blown away by the whirlwind of his wrath.

“ Therefore all your safety is and will be to keep inward to the Lord, that he may be your teacher, your own spirits being silenced ; waiting with delight to hear what he speaks ; and then if he be pleased to open any of your mouths for the edification one of another, it will be in his power and wisdom from above, that is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated ; in which you may build up one another in the most holy faith. But those that go into a passionate, hasty spirit, go out of the wisdom which is from above, into that which is from below ; and the wrath of man cannot work the righteousness of God.

“ So all keep down in your own gifts, inward to the Lord, who will fit you for his service, and guide you in his wisdom to hit the mark aimed at, and preserve you in the living faith delivered unto you, of which Christ Jesus our Lord is the author ; and whereby you may live, (as did the just in every generation) to the glory of God ; and being, by his power, made as the weighty wheat, be gathered into the garner of his salvation, when those who run out with frothy notions of their own imaginations, will be as chaff or dead men before the Lord.

“ Our souls have been often concerned for you, in these parts of the world, that you may be kept by the power of God ; unto whom we leave you, desiring

your prayers for our preservation in the holy Truth,
wherein we remain your friends and brethren,

“ THOMAS WILSON,

“ JAMES DICKINSON.”

“Nexis, the 4th of Twelfth Month, 1692-3.”

Now being clear of this island, our names were put up at a public place, as the law required, [as notice] of our going off the island, and certificates written, and carried by a Friend to the governor to be signed by him ; but he would not, for he had been much enraged by the priest, and threatened, that he would put us in the fort, and see us before we should depart. So we took horses, and went with the master of the ship, with whom we had taken our passage, to the governor's house. He appeared very angry with us, and said, We were spies, come to spy out the strength of the island. We told him, We were no spies, but true men ; and to satisfy the governor, we showed him a pass that had the secretary's seal on it, which we had at our coming out of England, wherein all governors and officers were commanded to let us pass. When he saw the broad seal, his countenance fell, and he asked us why we had not showed it him before ? We replied, We had not shewed it then, but for his satisfaction that we were not spies, but true men ; and further told him, we came in the love of God to visit our Friends and the inhabitants of the island. Then he signed the certificate, and called for a bottle of wine to drink with the captain and us ; but we would not drink any with him, for we were deeply bowed under the sense of God's goodness to us ; who had not only drawn us into his service, but also had made way for us, and wrought our deliverance. For

in the latitude of Bermudas a tornado came, which is a gust of storm, (our top-sails being a-trip,) and laid the vessel on one side like a log of wood, and it remained so for some time ; in which time the glory of the Lord did so shine upon us, that the fear of death was clearly taken away, and our hearts were filled with the joy of God's salvation.

Now being clear of our service for the Lord in America, we took shipping from Nevis homeward, and in about six weeks' time landed in the Highlands of Scotland. We travelled from thence by land into Cumberland, where we had some meetings, and Friends greatly rejoiced at seeing us, they having heard that we were taken by the French. From hence we travelled up to the Yearly Meeting at London, having some meetings in our way thither : we had a very blessed Yearly Meeting; Friends being in great love and unity, and greatly rejoiced to see us, as we did to see them ; and there is great thankfulness in my soul to the Lord, for his manifold favours and preservation both by sea and land.

CHAPTER III.

Visits to Oxfordshire and some western counties ; to Ireland and Wales—His Marriage and Removal to Ireland—Further religious service in England and Ireland—His second visit to America—Visits to various parts of England and Ireland—Epistle to Friends of Mountmelick—His Illness and Death—Copy of a Manuscript.

After the Yearly Meeting in London was over, I went, accompanied by Thomas Story,* through Oxfordshire, and so to Bristol, where we met with

* Thomas Story resided at Justice Town, near Carlisle —At this time he had not appeared in the ministry, but afterwards travelled much and was largely engaged in that service. His Journal contains the following particulars respecting this journey:—

“ We set forward from London the 24th day of the Fourth Month, and that day had a meeting at Uxbridge ; and on the 26th at Wycombe, and so by Oxford, where we had a comfortable meeting ; for though many of the collegians were there, who used to be rude in an extraordinary manner, yet the invisible power of the word of life being over them, at that time, they were quiet under the testimony thereof, in the authoritative ministry of Thomas Wilson. Many of them were struck with amazement and surprise, and their eyes were filled with tears ; so that several of the elder sort retired, but in a decent manner, as if to hide the effect of Truth, which, if they had staid, could not have been concealed ; but above all the rest, a young man, a very comely youth, who, by his appearance and behaviour, seemed to be the son of some noble person, was most deeply affected.” Leaving Oxford, they had several meetings in their way to Bristol. “ Here,” (T. S. continues), “ the Lord gave us glorious times, in the sensible enjoyment of his divine and soul-melting presence, to our general and mutual consolation : (for in those

Thomas Camm and Joseph Baynes.* Thomas Camm being inclined to stay some time longer in Bristol, Joseph Baynes went with us into Wiltshire and some western parts, where we had many good and blessed meetings. But at Warminster the people were contending with Friends, and we had two large meetings amongst them, wherein the Lord's tendering power broke in among them ; so that many were reached, and went away well satisfied. After having spent some time in those parts, we returned to

days Friends were near the Lord, and one another in him :) the canopy of his love was over us, and we rejoiced together therein, but with holy fear and with trembling ; and had often occasion to say concerning the way of the Lord, as of old, and with respect to his noble servant, that ' He maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire : ' for so *he* was indeed, in an eminent manner to the churches where he came in this visit, as generally elsewhere at other times."

* Joseph Baynes resided at Killington in Westmoreland. He was convinced of the Truth as professed by Friends, in the year 1652, under the ministry of George Fox ; and some considerable time afterwards, was himself called to that service. During many years of the latter part of his life, he travelled much in this nation, and laboured earnestly to promote love and unity amongst Friends. He suffered joyfully the spoiling of his goods, and endured many imprisonments with steadfastness and great patience, for his testimony against the anti-christian yoke of tithes, and on other accounts for Truth's sake ; being truly thankful that the Lord had counted him worthy to suffer for his name. He deeply lamented the prevalence of false liberty amongst the youth in his day, and bore this impressive testimony concerning their faithful predecessors. *' By the power of Truth we were made willing to put off all superfluity in eating and drinking and wearing of apparel ; our words [were] few and savoury ; for the Lord's dread was before our eyes, and our peace with him was precious to us ; which we, through obedience to the grace of God in our hearts, enjoyed.'* He died in the year 1714, aged 81 years.—See *Piety Promoted*, part vi.

Bristol, where leaving Joseph Baynes with Thomas Camm, Thomas Story and I went northward for Cumberland, having many good meetings in our way thither. [After this journey] I staid at home a while, following my outward employment, saving that now and then I visited Friends about in that county.

In the fall of the year 1694, I had some drawings to visit Friends in Ireland ; and William Greenup having the like concern, we travelled together through some part of Scotland, having service thereaway ; then took shipping at Port-Patrick, and landed at Donaghadee, in the North of Ireland. We visited Friends generally in that nation, and also had several meetings amongst other people. We had a prosperous journey, the Lord's blessed presence and power accompanying us in his service ; and the wars being newly over, there was a great openness in the people, and tenderness amongst Friends.

About the beginning of the Second Month, 1695, I returned from Ireland, and landed at Whitehaven in Cumberland, where I made but little stay at home, having a concern to be at the Yearly Meeting in Wales, to be held at Dolobran ; so travelled pretty directly thither. In this meeting, the Lord's good presence and power were enjoyed, to Friends' comfort and refreshment. After it was over I travelled to Bristol, and staid some months there ; and from thence to London, and was at the Yearly Meeting there ; soon after which I returned into the north.

In the fall of this year, I married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Bewley, of Wood-Hall, in Cumberland, who proved a true help-meet indeed to me. Soon after my said marriage, I found freedom in the Truth to remove with my wife into Ireland to dwell ; which

I did, and settled near Edenderry, in the King's county.

Some time after my said removal into Ireland, I found drawings from the Lord to visit Friends in England ; and in the fall of the year 1696, took shipping from Dublin, and landed at Holyhead. I travelled through some part of Wales, and thence into Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, Bristol and London, where I visited the meetings of Friends thoroughly ; from thence into Surrey and Sussex, and visited the meetings of Friends there ; then returned to London, where I had some further service for the Lord. Thence I passed northward through Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, and so into Yorkshire, travelling along the sea coast as far as Newcastle, and from thence across the country to Carlisle, having had many refreshing seasons in this journey amongst Friends. After having visited Friends' meetings in Cumberland, I went to Whitehaven, in order to take shipping ; but in the time of my waiting for a passage, had a very large meeting there without doors, in which the word of life was declared amongst them, and the meeting ended well. I landed in Ireland in the Twelfth Month, and soon after returned home, where I found my wife well, which was a great satisfaction to me.

Soon after I came home, I found drawings to visit Friends in this nation of Ireland ; which I did accordingly, and had meetings in many places amongst other people, where none had been before, nor any meetings of Friends settled ; and many were convinced, of whom some received the Truth in the love of it, and continued faithful thereunto. From the year 1697 to 1713, I often visited Friends in this nation, and also in the nation of England ; within

which space I was seven times at the Yearly Meeting in London, the Lord's good power accompanying me in his service.

Now I having had it upon me from the Lord for a considerable time to visit Friends again in America, my dear ancient friend and companion James Dickinson signified to me by a letter, that he had a like concern to visit Friends again in those parts ; whereof I was truly glad ; for we had often travelled together in great love, unity, and sweetness. So we agreed to meet in Dublin, which we did accordingly ; and thence took shipping for America in the Tenth Month, 1713. The name of the captain of the vessel was Richard Kelsey, of Whitehaven, in Cumberland.

We took our voyage north about ; and after I had seen the captain's diligent care and good conduct in his ship amongst his servants, and those on board, it drew my heart towards him in very much love, and gave me encouragement to take the freedom of having some religious discourse with him, wherein I found he aimed at justice and equity, so that my love increased towards him ; and he being a man frequent in prayer, we entered into discourse on the substantial part of prayer. I told him, We could not pray at all times in words, knowing our own insufficiency, but waited for the assistance of the Holy Spirit to help us and guide our understanding ; having regard to what the apostle said, " I will pray with the Spirit, and with the understanding also,"—1 Cor. xiv. 15, which might be inwardly performed, although no words were outwardly spoken. To which he readily assented, and told us, We might keep our meetings in the great cabin at any time when they did not keep theirs, and said, He thought we did pray inwardly. Now, though we had a storm in this

passage for near a month together, yet the captain's prudent management of the ship, and shewing himself so very respectful to us all along, and the good conversation we had together, made our voyage much the pleasanter.

On the Seventh day of the week, at night, the captain told us we should find the soundings next day, which we did accordingly about noon ; then he told us, that if the gale stood, we should reach the cape that evening : so sailing on till near night, we were within about seven or eight fathom water ; but night coming on, he wisely stood out to sea, and in a short time we got into Lynhaven Bay, having been nine weeks in our passage from the sight of Ireland. After a little stay in that harbour, we sailed on until we came into Rappahannoc River, and thence went ashore at Queen Anne's Town, where we parted with our kind captain in great love. He would have us take some of our provision, and gave us much loving counsel, which we accepted kindly.

We landed at Queen Anne's Town, and hired horses from thence to York River ; next day took boat to the western shore, from whence we contentedly took our travel on foot into the woods, having our saddles, saddle-bags, and great coats upon our shoulders. After a little time, seeing a man at a distance, riding towards us, James Dickinson said, ' Who knows but yonder man is coming to help us ? ' Who, when he came up, knew James, and cheerfully said, ' I had best alight, and take your things upon my horse ; ' this we kindly accepted of, and he went along with us to James Bates's house, who received us very kindly, his wife having been convinced by James Dickinson, and was a faithful Friend. It being their weekly meeting day, we went along with them to the

meeting, and had a good time with the few Friends there.

We travelled from thence through Virginia to North Carolina, having many good meetings amongst Friends and other people, many being glad to see us again in that country. We found a hopeful generation of young people there, who received the testimony of Truth with gladness. Having visited their meetings thoroughly, and had a good time amongst them, we returned into Virginia, and visited Friends up James River, and so by Black Creek, towards Maryland. After having had good service for the Lord in those parts, and several good meetings in our way, we visited Friends on the western shore of Maryland, and found great openness both amongst them and the people. From thence we went over the bay, and visited Friends on the eastern shore, and in the lower counties of Pennsylvania, and so to Salem, in West Jersey; the Lord's good presence attending us from meeting to meeting. We staid the Yearly Meeting at Salem, which was very large; the Lord's power was eminently manifested therein, and the doctrine of Truth was largely opened to the people. Thus having visited Friends on the east side of Delaware River, we went over to Philadelphia, and visited the meetings of Friends in Pennsylvania, which were very large, many sober people flocking to them; unto whom the testimony of Truth flowed forth in the word of life, to the opening of the understandings of many.

From Pennsylvania we crossed over Delaware River again, and travelled through the country to Shrewsbury. In our way thither a Baptist preacher came up to us, and directing his speech to me, said, he would ask me a question;—I bid him, say on;—

then said he, 'My question is, What is the ordination and qualification of a true minister of Jesus Christ?'—To which I answered, 'The apostle saith, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ."—1 Peter iv. 10, 11. I further said mildly to him, 'Thou mayst see that the ability of a true minister is in the divine gift.'—Then he said, 'I have another question to ask, which is this, Can any man that hath this divine gift, positively deny the command of our Lord Jesus Christ?'—To which I replied, 'That no man that was faithful to his holy gift, durst deny the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.'—'But,' said he, 'You do.'—Then, said I, 'How camest thou to charge me thus? What hast thou seen by me, to charge me with denying the commands of Jesus Christ?'—'I know,' said he, 'you are a Quaker, and that all the Quakers deny the positive command of Jesus Christ.'—I answered, 'Thou hast charged boldly, now thou must prove in what we deny them.'—He said, 'You deny water-baptism, which Jesus Christ commanded to be an ordinance in his church to the end of the world.'—I told him, He must prove his assertion, for I did not understand that ever Jesus Christ gave any commands to his ministers to baptize in elementary water; I desired him again, to prove what he had asserted. Then he began to repeat many Scriptures, quoting chapter and verse. I patiently heard him, until he had gone on a great while; and I seeing he had wrested the Scriptures, told him he must now make a full stop, till the company came up, for my

companion had a Bible in his pocket, and we would read the places (or texts) which he had mentioned, and any other he had yet to name. So standing still, they soon came up to us, and the Bible being called for, it was given into the hands of a young man, who was desired to read all those texts which the Baptist had urged to prove water-baptism a command of Jesus Christ, to be a standing ordinance in the church. After he had named many texts, they were read to him one by one ; but finding no text to make good his charge, I told him he had wronged the Scripture in adding thereto, 'which,' said I, 'is dangerous, for we read in the Revelations, xxii. 18, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."' After which I opened unto him the true baptism of Jesus Christ, which is with the Holy Ghost and with fire ; as John said, Matt. iii. 11. The Truth came over him, and we parted very friendly. He came to the meeting next day, and was silent.

From Shrewsbury we travelled to Woodbridge and New York, and thence to Long Island, where we staid the Yearly Meeting, which was a large and blessed meeting. From thence we went by water to Rhode Island, and was at their Yearly Meeting in the Fourth Month, wherein the power and the glory of the Lord did very much appear, and the universal love of God was held forth to the satisfaction of the people.

We went from thence to Taunton, where no Friends' meeting was settled, nor do we know that any had ever been there before ; to this meeting several sober people came, who were open to receive the testimony of Truth, and some were convinced ; since which a meeting is settled there. From thence we went to Dartmouth, where James left me, and went to the

Island of Nantucket ; but we met again at Sandwich, and travelled together through the country to Boston, where we had some service for the Lord, both amongst Friends and other people.

From Boston we went to Lynn, and thence to Salem, so to the eastern parts of New England,* as

* The circumstances related in the following extract from a *Manuscript, in the collection at Devonshire-house, London*, appear to have occurred in the course of this visit to New England. The name of the writer is not subscribed.

“ In the year 1714, our worthy friends, Thomas Wilson and James Dickinson, came into this province on a religious visit to the churches. I was present at a meeting they had at Plymouth, which, on account of the great gathering of people, was held under the trees. Thomas, in the exercise of his gift in the ministry, was led to treat on several subjects, which, making great impression on my mind at that time, and tending to confirm me in the faith I made open profession of, I still remember. [Among other things,] he spake largely on the passage of the “captive maid,” in respect to her service to her lord and master, [2 Kings v. 2—4], and in a powerful manner set forth the privileges which the true members of the church of Christ enjoyed under his peaceful government. He spoke prophetically concerning the work of sanctification some were under ; saying, the Lord would bring the faithful through all, to his glory and the solid comfort of the afflicted, though some might be, like David, in the horrible pit, &c. This and divers subjects [which] he mentioned, greatly affected me, and reached me in such a manner, that I was much broken ; and said in my heart, ‘surely all here will be convinced of the principle of divine Truth this day ; and not only convinced, but converted by the eternal word of God unto the true faith of Christ our Lord, who came to seek and to save all who should believe in his pure name !’ I thought none could withstand the doctrine preached, it being with great power and divine authority ; not as that of the scribes and hireling priests.

“ The Friends at whose house they were to dine, insisted on my going with them ; and as this was on my way home, I (with fear and trembling) complied. Being sat down in the house, Thomas Wilson fixed his eyes upon me, which made me conclude

far as Dover ; and after having visited Friends there, returned back by way of Boston to the Yearly Meeting at Providence, where we had good service for Truth. Thence we travelled through the country until we came to Rhode Island again, having had several meetings in our way, and found great openness in divers places. So after some stay in Rhode Island, and having had several precious meetings amongst them, we parted from Friends there in great love and tenderness, and returned by water to Long Island, where we had some stay in visiting Friends' meetings, and found a great openness amongst them.

From Long Island we went to New York, where we had a large and blessed meeting ; the people who were not Friends confessed to the Truth. We returned from thence to Woodbridge, and through Jersey to Pennsylvania again ; and after having some meetings amongst Friends, went to the Yearly Meeting at Burlington, which was very large, and held several days ; in which meeting the Lord's blessed power was richly manifested. After which, we returned to Philadelphia, and went from thence by

that he saw something in me wrong : upon which I arose and went out, being much affected ; but heard him say, ' What young woman is that ? she is like the little captive maid I have been speaking of this day ; may the God of my life strengthen her ! she will meet with sore trials ; but if she is faithful, the Lord will fit her for his service.' He further remarked, ' He saw the Lord was at work in me for good, and would in his time bring through all.' These hints have since been of service to me when almost overwhelmed in trouble, and I think should never be forgotten. I do not mention them in ostentation, but bow in awful reverence, as with my mouth in the dust, rendering to the great Author of all our mercies, adoration and praise : may it be now given unto him and for ever ! Amen."

way of Newcastle, to the Yearly Meeting at Choptank, on the eastern shore of Maryland ; which meeting was held in the Eighth Month, and was very large ; many people, besides Friends, flocked to it, from several parts of the country, and the doctrine of Truth was largely opened to them. After this meeting we went into the lower counties of Pennsylvania, and had several meetings amongst Friends, in which we were greatly comforted : so returned again to Philadelphia, and spent some time in and about that city, having good service for the Lord, and had a farewell meeting with Friends at Chester ; after which we hastened to Oxford, on the eastern shore of Maryland, in order to take shipping for England

Soon after we came to Oxford, we agreed with the master of a vessel for our passage, the ship being bound for Liverpool ; but told him we had a desire to stay the First-day meeting. He said, if he did not fire a gun, we might stay ; and a little before the meeting began, he fired a gun, which gave us warning to hasten aboard, although it was much contrary to our freedom, not being clear in our minds to leave the meeting ; so we went on board. They set sail, but made little way that day ; and we soon perceived that as the master of the ship had endeavoured to cross us, the Lord crossed him ; for there arose a great storm that night, which continued several days, in which time the ship sprung a leak, which daunted them. Yet taking some courage again, they kept to sea : but the leak increased so fast, that they altered their course, and stood in again, and with some difficulty got to an anchor in Lynhaven Bay ; which brought a fresh engagement upon us of thankfulness to the Lord for so signal a preservation. Here the master concluded to unlade, that he might stop the

leak, and told us we might go on shore and see our friends.

We hired a boat, and sailed up the river, so put to shore at the house of a widow woman, a Presbyterian, who received us kindly. She said, she had heard of us, and that the New Testament made much for us. After we had eaten and drunk, we would have paid her, but she would take nothing from us ; and when she had shewed us a little on our way, we parted with her in a friendly manner. That night we got to a Friend's house, and afterwards amongst Friends in Virginia. My companion James Dickinson and one Robert Jordan took boat, went aboard the ship and brought off our things : the master then shewed himself very respectful, and said, if we thought fit to come again, we should be very welcome, and if not, we might use our freedom.

We travelled to and fro in Virginia, and through the country, until we came to the western shore of Maryland, having many blessed meetings ; Friends being very glad to see us, and thankful to the Lord for our late preservation. We also went over the bay, and had a meeting with Friends at the same place where the captain would not suffer us to stay before. After this meeting we were free in our spirits to return, being thankful to God for his manifold preservations. In a little time after, we took shipping in another vessel, and landed at Cork, in Ireland, where we staid a meeting on the Sixth-day of the week. After meeting we went to Clogheen, and the next day to James Hutchinson's, where we lodged that night, and rode next morning to Mountmelick, where the Province meeting for Leinster was then held. We went into the meeting, Friends being gathered before we came ; and the power of Truth broke in upon the meeting, whereby Friends' hearts

were greatly tendered under a sense of the Lord's mercy in preserving us ; they not knowing any thing of our being landed until we came thither.

Here I parted with my dear friend and companion, James Dickinson ; and as we had travelled together in great love and unity, we likewise parted in the same. He went to Dublin, in order to take shipping for Cumberland, and I returned home to my dear wife and family, being truly thankful that the Lord had brought us together again.

I staid a little time at home ; and then our Half-year's Meeting coming on at Dublin, I went thither ; and from thence to London, in company with Friends appointed to attend the service of the Yearly Meeting there. We had several good meetings in our way ; and the Lord's power was eminently manifested in this Yearly Meeting. After which I left the city, and returned northward by way of Coventry, and so for Ireland ; and found my dear wife and children well, to my great satisfaction.

After some stay about home, I visited Friends' meetings up and down in the nation, as I found drawings in the love of Truth.

In the year 1721, I found a concern upon my spirit, to go for England in the service of Truth ; and after our Half-year's Meeting in Dublin, took shipping thence in company with John Barcroft* and

* " John Barcroft resided near Edenderry in Ireland. He was the first Friend who came to settle in that neighbourhood after the wars, and was very helpful at that time to encourage a few families to meet together for divine worship. He proved himself very serviceable in that meeting, and it afterwards became large. When about 33 years of age, he was called to the ministry, and was a diligent and successful labourer for the good of souls, both in Ireland and England. His ministry was plain and lively ; nor was he forward to appear without real

several other Friends, intending to be at the Yearly Meeting in London. After being two days at sea, the ship struck often on the sand in the night-time, so that we seemed in great danger of being lost ; but through the favour of Divine Providence were preserved : in the morning, the tide being out, the ship lay aground, and we got out our horses, and went ashore in Wales. From thence we rode seventeen miles to Chester, and on to Whitchurch, where one of our company parted with us. So I and the rest travelled to Wolverhampton, and were at the meeting on the First day of the week : the next day we all met at Dudley, at a burial : from Dudley, I, with one other of our company, went to Stourbridge, and all met again at the Quarterly Meeting at Bromsgrove in Worcestershire. From thence we travelled together to Alcester, and so to Evesham and Shipston, at each of which two last places we had a meeting. We then travelled together to London, and were at the Yearly Meeting there, which was large and peaceable. After that meeting was over, I staid a little time in that city, and had some service for the Lord : then departed in company with John Barcroft, and travelled through Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire ;

necessity. He was not slothful in his outward affairs, but managed them with discretion ; yet was fervent in spirit, freely given up to serve the Lord, his church and people ; and preferred the prosperity of Zion as his chief joy. His conversation greatly adorned his profession, being pleasant and cheerful, yet grave, meek, and humble, preferring others before himself ; a peacemaker, being singularly helpful in composing differences ; a useful helpmeet in the government of the church, and also ruling his own house well ; a frequent visitor of the sick, charitable, and given to hospitality. He died in the year 1723, being the sixtieth of his age, and about the twenty-seventh of his ministry." — See *Rutty's History of Friends in Ireland*.

thence to Bath, and so to Bristol, in which city we staid some time, and had several very precious meetings. I went from Bristol into some parts of Gloucestershire; and when clear, returned to Bristol, and had some further service for the Lord. My dear friend John Barcroft, being indisposed, and feeble of body, I left him amongst his kind friends at Bristol, having some constraint upon me to fulfil the service that was before me. So I travelled westward, as far as the Land's End in Cornwall, having many very blessed meetings as I travelled along through the country. I visited Cornwall thoroughly, and was greatly comforted with Friends there, and found great openness amongst the people in divers places. I returned by Plymouth, Exeter, Bridport, Poole, and thence by the seacoast until I came to Dover, having had many refreshing meetings as I travelled through that country; Samuel Hopwood* being with me. We

* Samuel Hopwood was born at Tadcaster in Yorkshire, in the year 1674. He removed to Austle in Cornwall, in 1706, (having married a Friend of that place,) and resided there during the remainder of his life. He was of a serious disposition when young, and as he grew up, his mind became deeply impressed with the value and love of heavenly things. When about 25 years of age, he came forth in the work of the ministry, and travelled in that service, at various times, through a long course of years, viz: from the twenty-ninth to the eightieth year of his age. He visited many parts of England and Wales, was once in Scotland, three times in Ireland, and once in America.

His Monthly Meeting, on receiving back the certificate liberating him for the service above briefly described, recorded the following minute: "This day our Friend Samuel Hopwood gave this meeting an account of his travels, in his last journey with Thomas Wilson, wherein they had good satisfaction, both among Friends and [others;] finding an openness in them to receive Truth's testimony." In the year 1732, he attended the Yearly Meetings of Bristol and London, accompanied by his son Alexander, a

went from Dover to Canterbury, and so by Rochester to London.

I staid in and about the city of London several weeks, the Lord's presence and power attending me in his work : from thence travelled into Hertfordshire, and had divers good meetings in that county, greatly to my satisfaction : then I returned to London, where I had again some comfortable meetings. Being clear of that city, I parted with Friends in great love and sweetness, and travelled through Essex to Colchester ; thence to Ipswich and Woodbridge, and through Suffolk into Norfolk, having many comfortable meetings as we travelled through that country ; Isaac Pickerell* of London, accompanying me. We had two very large meetings at Norwich, greatly to edification ; the word of eternal life being freely preached, whereby many hearts were tendered : so travelled through the country, until we came to Lynn, having divers good meetings in our way thither. I was very glad to meet with several who were con-

promising youth, who soon after their return home, was taken ill of a fever and died.—See an account of his peaceful close in *Piety Promoted*, part vii. Samuel Hopwood died in the year 1760, aged 86, having been a minister 61 years.—From *S. Hopwood's MS. Journal, and Minutes of his Monthly Meeting*.

* Isaac Pickerell removed from London into the compass of Reading Monthly Meeting in the year 1723. According to the *Testimony* of that meeting, " he was a minister whose doctrine was sound, edifying and convincing. He visited in that character, most parts of Great Britain, and was well qualified and zealously concerned for maintaining the good order and wholesome discipline established in the church. He was very assisting by advice and otherwise to Friends in cases of difficulty, either of a civil or religious nature. A short time before his decease, he expressed his satisfaction *in that he found his day's work was done, and that he had faithfully served the Lord, his church and people*. He died in the year 1756, aged nearly 79, having been a minister about 53 years "

vinced when I formerly travelled through that country. At Lynn I parted with Isaac Pickerell : he returned to London and I went northward. I travelled through Lincolnshire, Michael Williams going along with me to several meetings. I passed thence into Yorkshire, until I came to York, visiting Friends' meetings in the way. I made some stay at York, and had some service for the Lord ; from thence I crossed the country, and went to the Yearly Meeting in Wales, which was held at Llanidloes, having several meetings as I passed along the country. In this Yearly Meeting, the Lord's power and love was richly manifested, and I was greatly comforted amongst Friends there. After this meeting I went to Holyhead, and took shipping for Ireland, and in the Third Month, 1722, returned home ; being truly thankful to the Lord, who had supported and enabled me, by his Divine Power, to answer his holy requirings.

[It seems probable, from an expression in the following Epistle (without date), that it was written when the author was in the decline of life, and that, as respects order of time, it may be properly introduced in this place.]

*“ To Friends of Mountmelick Men's Meeting, or
elsewhere.*

“ DEAR FRIENDS,

“ I have been for some years past, and more especially of late, under deep considerations respecting the state of Friends, and the affairs of Truth in general, and our Monthly Meeting in particular, which hath brought a weight of exercise upon my mind ; and doubting whether I may ever have an opportunity of seeing you, so as to ease myself of what remains as a con-

cern upon me, was willing to communicate these few lines for your weighty and serious consideration ; which are as follow :

“ That the order and government of the church was settled by the same Divine Spirit, which the true ministry sprung from ; and that all who speak in Men’s Meetings should be careful they do not speak any thing to offend God, but wait to have their offerings seasoned with grace, and offered in the same Divine Spirit, by which the order and government of the church was first established. The doctrine of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ directed, that every one is to be salted with fire, and every sacrifice seasoned with salt ; (mark) the vessel is to be seasoned with the holy fire of the word of God, and sanctified by the Truth ; otherwise God will not accept of their offerings, any more than he did the offerings of Aaron’s sons, who offered strange fire, which the Lord never commanded, and so brought death upon themselves. You may also observe, that when Moses was dead, who received the law from God’s mouth, that Joshua was to succeed him in the same Spirit ; which plainly appears from the positive command of the Lord to him, that “ he should be courageous, and observe and do according to all the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded him ; he was not to depart therefrom, either to the right hand or to the left, that so he might prosper wherever he went.” By which it is plain, the blessing is only to them who come up in the same Holy Spirit, which case is very applicable to Friends in this our day ; for it is undeniable, that the weighty rules and order of the church were received in the beginning by our ancients and elders, from the opening of the Divine Spirit of Truth, and settled in the counsel of God. And as

sure as ever Joshua was to succeed Moses, and to observe all the law which was commanded him ; so are Friends now, who are of a succeeding generation, faithfully to keep and observe those weighty rules and precepts left them by their elders, without turning from them either to the right hand or to the left : and it remains as a testimony in my heart for the Lord, to leave with you, That when any offer any thing in Men's Meetings which contradicts the ancient rules and divine precepts settled amongst us in the heavenly power, they contradict the very counsel of God, and it is but an offering of strange fire, which God never commanded, neither will accept of ; and so they bring death over themselves, kindle strange fire in the meeting, dazzle the minds of Friends, and are hinderers of the work and service of Truth."

I staid about home, sometimes visiting Friends' meetings that were near ; and in the Third Month, 1724, I went to the Half-year's Meeting at Dublin, where I was greatly comforted amongst Friends in the feeling of that divine life and power, which is the crown and glory of our meetings. After this meeting, I returned home, and growing infirm of body, went little abroad to distant meetings ; but in the Ninth Month following, Friends of Leinster kept the Province Meeting at Edenderry, to which I went ; the Lord's power was richly manifested therein, and the affairs of Truth were managed in great love and sweetness. John Fothergill, from England, being there, had good service for the Lord.

Now I rejoice in that I have served the Lord in my day ; and as I have laboured to promote the Truth in my generation, I feel great peace from the

Lord flowing in my soul ; and am thankful that I have been made willing to serve him And as my dear wife, being a woman that truly fears God, hath freely given me up to answer the requirings of Truth, I hope she will have a share in that reward and peace whereof the Lord hath given me the earnest : and whereas I have deeply travailed both in body and spirit for the promotion of Truth in the earth, in a general way, so I have also often besought the Lord, that he would be pleased to reach effectually to my own children in particular, that they may be faithful witnesses for him in their generation.

OUR dear friend Thomas Wilson, being taken ill of body, about the 18th day of the Eleventh Month, in the year 1724, continued weakly for several months, in which time he uttered many weighty expressions ; and at several times was concerned in fervent prayer to the Lord for the young and rising generation, that they might be faithful witnesses for the Truth in their day. He was freely resigned to the will of God ; yet desiring of the Lord, if he had no further service for him, to remove him out of his pain, which at times was very great.

When he was a little easy, he often spoke of the things of God, and was very much concerned that Friends should live agreeably to the doctrine of Christ ; also that the good order established amongst us by our faithful elders, might be kept up and maintained, and that all differences and disorders might be kept out of the church ; and said, *If Friends kept the ancient path, and observed the Lord's rules, they would be a blessed people :* expressing his satis-

faction, That in all nations where he had travelled, he had been careful not to join with any that were for false liberty, or laying waste the testimony of Truth, which the Lord had called his people to bear.

One evening, several Friends sitting with him, he was very sweetly and prophetically opened in words to this effect, viz: That a great harvest-day was coming over the nations, and that the Lord was fitting, and would fit many, and send them into the harvest; but said, he hoped in a little time to be gathered to the generations of the just that were gone before; and was comforted to feel that *Friends were inward with the Lord in their spirits*; expressing *how near Truth made Friends one to another in the beginning, and that he was glad of the nearness and unity amongst Friends now, desiring it might continue and increase.*

At one time he was asked if he would have any thing to wet his mouth; to which he replied to this effect, 'The Lord hath taken away all my pain, and given me the bread of life and the water of life, and quenched my thirst, which hath been great; the will of the Lord be done;' and fervently prayed to the Lord for his people, especially the youth, that he would be pleased to incline their hearts to follow him in the way of Truth. And soon after said to this effect, *'If the youth of this meeting and nation incline their hearts to the Lord above all, he will make them a shining people; but if they do not, he will cast them off.'* And again said, 'The Lord's goodness fills my heart, which gives me the evidence and assurance of my everlasting peace in his kingdom, with my ancient friends that are gone before me, with whom I had sweet comfort in the work of the gospel;'

also said, '*Those that touch the Lord's work, and are not of clean hands, will not prosper.*' And notwithstanding our said Friend had been eminently attended with the power of Truth, and had great service many ways, he would speak very humbly of himself, ascribing all the honour to the Lord. At a certain time he said to this effect, 'Although the Lord hath made use of me at times to be serviceable in his hand, what I trust in is the mercy of God in Jesus Christ;' and again, Friends sitting by him, he said, in like manner, 'The Lord visited me in my young years, and I felt his power, which hath been with me all along, and I am assured he will never leave me, which is my comfort.' He also often expressed his desire, *that Friends might dwell in humility, and keep low; for that to his sorrow he had seen many who grew high, come to ruin, both themselves and posterity, and their places left desolate.*

Near his conclusion, he often desired the Lord would give him an easy passage, which was granted: he was also preserved sensible to the last, and passed away without sigh or groan, as if he had been going to sleep, on the 20th day of the Third Month, 1725. His remains were buried the 22nd of the same, accompanied by a great number of Friends and others; when Friends had a good opportunity to bear testimony to that Divine Power, whereby he was raised up to be a faithful witness for the Truth in his generation. And though his removal is a great loss to his family in particular, and the church in general, it is, no doubt, his everlasting gain.

Copy of a manuscript found amongst the papers of our deceased Friend THOMAS WILSON, in his own handwriting, not printed in the two first editions of his Journal.

“As I was deeply exercised in my mind about the things of the living God, and the holy order of the blessed gospel of the Lord Jesus, it was opened to me, that all concerned Friends that speak in Men’s Meetings, ought to wait for a due inward feeling of the heavenly gift; and as that gives an understanding, then speak in, and minister in the order of Jesus, which is holy; then all that [they] speak will be for promoting the way of Truth, and keeping all professors thereof in faithfulnesss and true obedience to the Lord.

“I being thus in a travail of spirit, the state of Men’s Meetings as they now are, was set before me; and I saw three sorts of men speaking, and they were in three paths:—one sort was on the right hand, where they ran on in their own wills, and were very fierce for order, but not in a right spirit: they were the cause of long discourses, and greatly displeased the Lord and his faithful people.—I saw another path on the left hand, and there was a great darkness, and a stiff-necked people, that were for breaking down the orders and good rules that the Lord has established in the church.—Then my soul was filled with sorrow and cries to the Lord, seeing the great danger both of these were in.—Then the Lord was pleased to show me a middle path; and the Lord’s people were in it, and had the strong line of —justice and true judgment; the Lord’s Holy Spirit and heavenly presence is their guide.

“I am moved to warn all you who are stiff and sturdy in your own wills, to stand still, and turn in

your minds to the heavenly gift : in it is the true wisdom, and blessed knowledge ; and you will learn to know what the good and acceptable will of the Lord is ; and if you speak in the meeting, it will be to please God, and for *his* honour, not *your own* ; for you strive for honour in a carnal mind, and seek not the honour of the Lord, but are in great presumption."

A JOURNAL

OF THE

LIFE, TRAVELS, AND LABOURS OF LOVE,

IN

THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY,

OF THAT

WORTHY ELDER AND FAITHFUL SERVANT OF
JESUS CHRIST,

JAMES DICKINSON,

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT MOORSIDE, IN CUMBERLAND,
ON THE 6TH OF THE THIRD MONTH, 1741, IN THE
EIGHTY-THIRD YEAR OF HIS AGE.

TO THE READER.

The Apostle John was instructed to write, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ; and their works do follow them."—Rev. xiv. 13. And it is no ways strange that he should be instructed so to write, considering what is elsewhere said, that "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints,"—Psalm cxvi. 15 ; and that it is the end of all their labours, (and a blessed end it is indeed,) to which the crown is promised ; as was said to one of the churches, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."—Rev. ii. 10. This is to them an end of all their labours, jeopardies, hardships, and sufferings ; and they are landed safe in that much to be desired port, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest." But then, if their labours are so acceptable to the Lord, and their works follow them, (for the reward is to be according to them, Matt. xvi. 27, in that glorious kingdom they are entered into,) how precious ought they to be in the sight of his servants ! Even the remembrance of them ought not to be lost, but the fragments to be gathered up, that they may be transmitted to posterity for their imita-

tion and encouragement ; and this not in any wise for the exalting of man, but that the Power whereby they have been raised up, preserved, and carried through, may be exalted. For this, even that Power, was their wisdom and their strength, and blessed are all they who put their trust in it ; that according to the example of the psalmist, one generation may praise his works to another, and declare his mighty acts,—Psal. cxlv. 4, even those mighty acts which the Lord hath wrought through his servants, whom he hath been pleased to raise up from a low estate, and to set among princes, even the princes of his people, and to declare the might of his arm. He is pleased to carry on his own work by mean instruments in the world's account, that no flesh might glory in his presence ; as the apostle writes, “ For ye see your calling, brethren ; how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called : but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise ; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty ; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen.”—1 Cor. i. 26—28. And this hath been wonderfully made appear in this generation, and the generation preceding ; wherein God hath been pleased to carry on his glorious work of reformation, in causing the Gospel to be preached again, after a long night of darkness, by mean and illiterate instruments in the world's account ; by whom they have been, and still are, accounted as fools : and yet how mightily it hath pleased God to prosper his work in their hands,

to the gathering many souls near to himself, and into unity with his blessed Spirit, through their ministry. Of this number was our friend James Dickinson, the author of the ensuing journal, a man indefatigable in his labours and services for the edification of the church, and the good of souls ; whose ministry was not in the enticing words which man's wisdom teacheth, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, and in that wisdom which the Holy Ghost teacheth ; and was effectual to the convincing and gathering many, and settling them upon the rock Christ Jesus, and under his teaching, who is the foundation of all the righteous generations ; in whom all such who believe shall not be ashamed, nor shall be any "more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God," as saith the apostle, Eph. ii. 19.

And reader, if thou peruse the following account of the services and labour of love of this man of God, with an unprejudiced mind, and with a desire to be informed and helped forward in thy spiritual journey, thou wilt, no doubt, reap advantage by it, and be encouraged to press forward ; and it will be to thee a savour of life unto life ; that is, the savour of life that will attend thee in the reading of it, if thou read it with a single eye, will tend to promote the same life in thy soul, and thou wilt desire, according to thy measure, to be found walking in faithfulness towards God : for this is that which can only recommend to him ; and thus will the end of the labour of his faithful servants be answered.

And if thou find any thing which seems not so

clearly and fully set forth, or that he is short in his account concerning his travels in some places, thou needest not wonder at it, considering how much he was employed in public service, and almost continually travelling to and fro in the work of the ministry ; but it is rather to be admired that he was capable of transmitting so much, and that so well as he has done ; and not only so, but also as he was a man who had not the advantage of a liberal or learned education, but like the disciples of his Lord formerly, (see Acts iv. 13.), was ignorant and unlearned in that literature ; though he was wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil, and was able with the blessed apostle, “to speak wisdom among them that were perfect,”—1 Cor. ii. 6; and to declare his experience in the things of God, and the mysteries of true godliness and saving religion : and therefore it is hoped, that inaccuracies in style and manner of expression, or otherwise, will be overlooked and excused by the candid and ingenuous reader.

As to the account of his acceptance among Friends where he lived, and the service he was of in the Meeting he belonged to, we refer to the testimony concerning him from the Monthly Meeting of which he was a member, herewith published ; and shall conclude this preface with this short exhortation to every particular (but more especially to the youth,) who may read the ensuing treatise : Wouldst thou be a vessel of honour in the house of God, and of service in thy day and generation, (as this our worthy Friend was,) according to thy degree and station in the Church of Christ ?

Thou must then keep under the government of the grace or Spirit of God, which made him what he was, and learn to trust in it: for "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."—Gal. iii. 6; and so it will be to all his children after the promise: and seek not thine own honour, for "how can ye believe who receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only," saith Christ our Lord and Pattern, John v. 44. And if thou keepest under the government of the Spirit or grace of God, to the manifestation of his light in thy own heart, (which are all one thing, under different names, according to the diversities of the operations of God's universal gift dispensed for the redemption of mankind, and have all the same or the like properties and effects ascribed to each of them,) thou wilt receive power to become a child of God, and inherit the promises. Concerning which terms of grace, spirit, and light, for the sake of such who may be strangers to this doctrine, a few Scripture testimonies are subjoined, viz.

1st, Under the term grace: "By grace are ye saved through faith."—Eph. ii. 8. God's "grace is sufficient for thee."—2 Cor. xii. 9. It is that which "teacheth to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly."—Titus ii. 12.

2ndly, Under the term Spirit: "When the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all Truth."—John xvi. 13. "The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."—1 Cor. ii. 12. "But God hath revealed them to us by his Spirit."—1 Cor.

ii. 10. "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."—Eph. iv. 30. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."—Rom. viii. 14. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his,"—Rom. viii. 9; for it is through the Spirit the deeds of the body (which are our lusts) are mortified.—Rom. viii. 13.

3rdly. Under the term Light : Christ is "the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," (John i. 9,) as he declares of himself, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."—John viii. 12. And thus is fulfilled what the prophet foretold concerning him, that "God gave him (his Son) for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles."—Isa. xlii. 6. And again he says, "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth,"—Isa. xlix. 6; and also by Zacharias, "to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."—Luke i. 79. And this is what the Apostle John gives testimony to, that it was come; "because," saith he, "the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth."—1 John ii. 8; and exhorts the believers to walk in it, chap. i. 7; and what the Apostle Paul bears record of, when he says, "But all things that are reprov'd, (or are discovered, as in the margin,) are made manifest by the light,"—Eph. v. 13.; and this is that light with which the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, is enlightened, and there-

fore “ needs not the light of the sun or of the moon, but the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof; and the nations of them which are saved, shall walk in the light of it.”—Rev. xxi. 23, 24. And it is to this gift, which is the saving health of all nations, the apostle recommends the believers in his time, under the term grace, and to which all who have known the sufficiency of it, do direct all : “ And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”—Acts xx. 32.

To God only wise, who is glorified in his saints, and preserves through all, such who put their trust in him, be dominion and thanks, now and for evermore. Amen.

THE TESTIMONY

*Of [Pardshaw] Monthly Meeting concerning our
worthy Friend, JAMES DICKINSON, deceased.*

JAMES DICKINSON of Greentrees (otherwise Moor-side,) belonging to Pardshaw Meeting, in the county of Cumberland, was born at Lowmoor, of honest parents, in the year 1658. The Lord was pleased tenderly to visit him in his young years, whereby he became acquainted measurably with his teachings when but a child ; but for want of keeping a stedfast eye to the guidings thereof, was led forth into those follies and vanities of the world incident to youth. But such was the love of the heavenly Father, (as he often declared amongst us in the spring of the gospel) that he was met with again, and brought back as a sheep strayed from the Father's fold ; and after much affliction and solitary exercise, was fitted for future service ; and engaged in a public testimony about the eighteenth year of his age. He was shortly after concerned to go to several meetings of the Dissenters in the country where he lived, and underwent hardships among them ; yet Truth crowned his labours with some convincement. After which he travelled in the service of the ministry, in divers counties through England, Ireland, and Scotland ; undergoing suffer-

ings in the times of persecution. He visited Friends in Ireland twelve times, three times in America, once in Holland and Germany, and laboured much in his native country and nation of England, many having been convinced by him. Much more might have been said concerning his labours and travels in the work of the ministry, but we refer to his ensuing journal.

We have this testimony to give concerning our dear deceased Friend : he was a diligent labourer at home, a constant attender of meetings, a sincere traveller therein, very tender over the youth, a nursing father to the least, and full of charity to all rightly anointed ; yet not hasty to join with forward spirits. He was also careful not to join in party causes, but was greatly concerned for the promotion and unity of the church ; and often expressed his stedfast faith of Truth's testimony being exalted in the nations, and the antichristian oppression of tithes brought down ; and with concern declared his sorrow for such as weakly complied therewith.

When his natural abilities failed, he would speak strongly, apparently beyond his age and constitution. He was seized with a palsy near a year before he died, which detained him from coming to meetings, and by which his speech was much taken from him ; but he would often say, *Though he was weak, he was well, and had nothing but peace on every hand ;*—expressing his care and concern for the growth and preservation of the church.

He died on the 6th of the Third Month, 1741, and was interred on the 8th of the same, in Friends'

burying-ground, at Eaglesfield, being accompanied by a great many Friends and others. Aged eighty-three, a minister sixty-five years.

Read, approved, and signed, at our Quarterly Meeting, held at Pardshaw Hall in the county of Cumberland, the 1st of the Second Month, 1742,

BY JOHN WILSON.

THE TESTIMONY

Of JOHN BELL, to the Memory of our worthy Friend

JAMES DICKINSON, deceased.

[READER,]

Thou art, with this, presented with a brief account of the diligent labours and hard travels, of that faithful servant and eminent minister of the Gospel of Christ, James Dickinson ; to whose faithfulness to the Truth, manifested in an humble, self-denying life and circumspect, godly conversation, I could not but give this brief testimony ; for it was this which greatly recommended that ministry in which he zealously laboured for the promotion of piety and virtue, both at home and abroad ; so that it often proved effectual to reach the witness of God in the consciences of those to whom he ministered. It may be truly said of him, that he went not about to publish the gospel of life and salvation with enticing words which man's wisdom teacheth, but in the power and demonstration of the Spirit ; for he was not a minister of the letter only, but of the Spirit : it was by being obedient to the powerful workings thereof in himself, and by waiting diligently for the movings and openings of it, that he became well qualified for that service. His testimony was living and powerful, and often very terrible to the workers

of iniquity, yet very edifying and comfortable to the well-minded, and encouraging to them to wait for the help of the Holy Spirit, whereby they might be made able to persevere in the way of life and salvation ; (which way is revealed and made manifest by the light of the Son of God, which in some degree shineth in the hearts of all mankind, and is the unerring Guide to all such who believe in it, and are obedient to its discoveries, to bring them to the strait gate, and into the narrow way which leads to eternal happiness.) By his powerful and lively testimonies the weak and doubtful were often encouraged to depend upon that powerful Arm whereby they had been gathered out of the many evils which are in the world ; and the feeble-minded confirmed in the belief of the Truth, and their faith strengthened in Jesus Christ the way to the Father. For he was often concerned in the openings of Truth to speak to the divers states and conditions of the people to whom he was called to minister, having through the mercy of God the word to preach, and wisdom given him to divide it aright ; and many yet living who have sat under his testimonies with great comfort and satisfaction, can witness that he did not "handle the word of God deceitfully," but was "a workman that needed not to be ashamed."

He was an able minister of the new covenant, a zealous promoter of the cause of Truth, and laboured faithfully in that good work whereunto he was called, in that ability which God gave. He travelled much in that service through many difficulties and hardships, and at times in great jeopardy ; but as his

dependence was upon God, whom he faithfully served and obeyed, he was preserved through all those difficulties, and enabled to perform his service, and cheerfully to undergo the hardships he met with ; for the Lord had blessed him with a good constitution and bodily strength, so that he was well qualified both with spiritual and temporal ability for that service where unto he was called and appointed, as plainly appears by his ensuing journal. For, as hath been already said, he laboured faithfully where he came, in word and doctrine ; and many were turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God by his ministry, and the flock of Christ edified, comforted, and encouraged in a faithful perseverance. And although he travelled much, and often hard, as plainly appears by his said journal, (not being willing to make the gospel chargeable,) yet when he was drawn forth to visit the churches abroad, as soon as his service was over, and his spirit eased of the concern which was upon him, it appears, he was diligent to return to his outward habitation and business, that he might not only be a good example to others, but might also mind his service among Friends at home. A good example indeed of an able minister and faithful elder of the church of Christ ! worthy to be observed and followed by all to whom a dispensation of the same gospel is given to preach ; for wheresoever any are truly qualified and called to the ministry, there will be a service for them among Friends where they dwell, in that ministry whereunto they are called ; so that when any are called to visit any of the

churches, there ought still to be a care upon their minds to return when they have discharged themselves faithfully of that concern required of them: for the truly called of God will find, if they diligently mind the manifestations of the Holy Spirit which qualifies for service, and leads the obedient servants of Christ into it, that there is a service for them to do among Friends in those places where they are inhabitants; and the care of the churches there, according to their several growths, will fall upon them; and this service ought not to be neglected; for wheresoever that may happen, such will suffer loss. Therefore I would tenderly advise, in the love of Christ, all who are concerned in the work of the ministry, that they be very careful to mind this their service; and, by that help given of God, endeavour to follow the example of this faithful and experienced elder: for, according to his account in the following journal, (to the truth whereof many now living can testify,) when he returned from his labours and travels abroad in visiting the churches, he diligently attended the particular meeting to which he belonged, also was often concerned to visit neighbouring meetings; and not less careful to frequent meetings for discipline, that he might be helpful to his brethren in the management of the affairs of Truth; which nearly united them one to another.

But, by what is above said by way of caution, I do not intend to discourage any who are rightly concerned; but on the contrary hand, would recommend the advice of the apostle to Timothy, "Let the elders that rule well, be counted worthy of double honour,

especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” —1 Tim. v. 17, and not only so, but I would also beseech Friends, when it may please God to raise up and qualify any for the work of the ministry, that they do not slight it, nor despise the instruments who may be so concerned, how mean soever they may appear in the eyes of men ; for it is the Lord’s work, who is able to qualify : but be diligently exercised in your minds, that they may feel the help of your spirits for their strength and encouragement ; for the exercise and concern of the true ministers is of more weight to them than some are aware of.

As to this our worthy Friend, he was a man much esteemed in his own country, and Friends there highly valued him for his work’s sake and his faithfulness therein ; and his humble deportment, circumspect life and godly conversation, gained him a good report among his neighbours, and those with whom he conversed.

He also frequently attended the Yearly Meeting in London ; and the still, retired frame of mind he often sat in, when in that Meeting, hath affected the minds of some who have beheld him ; and when he spoke to matters, it was in humility, and very weighty, greatly to the satisfaction of divers brethren, his words being seasoned with grace. Yet he was not so peculiarly gifted for the management of the discipline of the church as some others in his time, who were not so eminent in the ministry ; whereby the great wisdom of the Almighty is plainly seen ; for he fits and qualifies his faithful servants by his own power and Holy Spirit for that work and service in the church, to which he sees meet to appoint

them : as the apostle said, " Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit ; and there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord ; and there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all."—1 Cor. xii. 4—6. And the apostle, when he speaks of Christ's ascending up on high, when he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men, goes on, and further saith, " And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."—Eph. iv. 11, 12. And as the church comes to be restored into its primitive purity, the same Lord is able, in our day, to qualify his faithful servants, and give gifts to them for the perfecting the saints, that the body may edify itself in love. It was for the work of the ministry that this our worthy Friend was peculiarly gifted, in which he laboured faithfully many years, and was an example of humility and meekness ; which, with his pious life and godly conversation, greatly adorned the doctrine he had given him to preach ; for he walked in the " just man's path," which " is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."—Prov. iv. 18, and his zeal for the cause of Truth continued whilst strength of body was given him to perform his service.

I shall now recommend to Friends in general, the serious perusal of the following journal ; wherein is set forth the protection, and many preservations of the author, by that mighty Hand and Power on which he depended ; that every one may be stirred up to rely on the same divine Arm which preserved him

during a long pilgrimage, through many exercises and difficulties ; that by the help of the Holy Spirit, many may be enabled to follow this faithful man's good example in humility, piety, virtue, and faithfulness to the Truth we profess. And [now that] it hath pleased the Great Creator of all things to remove him from us, and to take him to himself, he having ceased from his labours, his works follow him ; and I doubt not, but through Jesus Christ our Mediator, he hath obtained an entrance into that everlasting rest which remains for the righteous. And his memory lives with the faithful who knew him : for, as the psalmist saith, "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."—Psal. cxii. 6 : and, as Daniel the prophet saith, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament ; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."—Dan. xii. 3. May we, by following his steps, attain the like reward ; and with him, among saints and angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect, praise God our Redeemer, and receive that crown of righteousness, which is laid up for all those who love the appearance of Jesus Christ our Lord ; unto whom, with the Father, be dominion and glory, thanksgiving and praise, now and for ever.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ; and their works do follow them."
—Rev. xiv. 13.

JOHN BELL.

*Bromley, the 12th of the
Ninth Month, 1744.*

A JOURNAL
OF THE
LIFE AND TRAVELS
OF
JAMES DICKINSON.

CHAPTER I.

His Birth—Care and Faithfulness of his Parents—His Transgressions and Convictions—Religious exercises and first appearance in the Ministry—Visits to a Presbyterian and Baptist meeting, &c.—Travels in various parts of England and Wales, also in Scotland, Ireland, and Holland—His first visit to America—Remarkable deliverance on the Voyage—Travels and Gospel labours in America.

I WAS born at a place called Lowmoor-house, in the parish of Dean and county of Cumberland, in the year 1659. My parents' names were Matthew and Jane Dickinson, who being convinced of the Truth, educated me in the way thereof; and the Lord, by his power, did reach unto me when very young, and often broke my heart into true tenderness, so that many times I had a secret delight to be inwardly retired to feel the virtue of it; which was cause of true gladness to my parents, whose delight was in the enjoyment of the Lord's presence. They were

good examples to their children, educating them in the way of righteousness ; often exhorting us with tears to fear the Lord, sincerely desiring that their children might be his. My testimony for them is, *they discharged themselves to their children.*

When I was about seven years of age, it pleased the Lord to remove my dear mother from the cares and troubles of this life. My father retained his integrity and zeal for God and his Truth, and his care still increased for his children's good, that they might grow up in the Truth ; often admonishing us to fear the Lord, and to mind his light and grace that secretly reproved us for the wildness and the outgoings of our minds into vanity ; so that I may say they are clear of us, and am satisfied they are entered into rest, and their works follow them.

My father died when I was ten years old ; and I not taking the counsel of the wise man, viz. to take the counsel of my father, which was *to mind the light or measure of grace given unto me*, my mind was drawn out after the vain plays, customs, fashions, and will-worships of the world ; in which state I continued some time. Yet the Lord by his power did many times reach my heart, and by the spirit of his dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, reproved me for my vain conversation ; many times calling me to return unto him from whom I had gone astray ; whose power, in some measure, I had felt before to tender my heart. But I, not minding to turn at the reproofs of wisdom, went on in rebellion against his blessed Spirit, and ran as with a multitude to do evil, into wildness and vanity ; until the Lord in his mercy did visit my soul by his righteous judgments, and thereby turned my mirth into mourning, and joy into heaviness ; and deep sorrow was my portion.

Being warned to repent and turn to the Lord, a godly sorrow was begun, which I experienced to lead to true repentance. Then my familiars became my enemies, and I was a taunt and a bye-word to them : yet still, as I loved the Lord in the way of his judgments, and waited upon him to know the way of them, I found the Lord to give victory, and saw my greatest enemies were those of my own house, and the war begun there. And as I was careful to keep in the light, I came to see the kingdom rent from Saul, and given to David ; though there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David : but as I kept my eye unto the Lord, I came to see the house of Saul to grow weaker and weaker, and the house of David stronger and stronger. Yet many were the days of mourning and nights of sorrow my soul went under ; that I may say, it was the day of Jacob's trouble, and of Joseph's affliction : many times I cried unto the Lord, *' Oh that I had a cave in the ground, that I might mourn out my days, that in the end I might find peace with thee !'* And in those deep afflictions and exercises, the Lord was very near, and often mixed mercy with judgment ; so that my soul began to delight to wait upon him in the way of his judgment, seeing it was by the spirit of judgment and burning that the filth of the daughter of Zion must be done away. As I kept here, I felt the love of God to increase in my soul, which deeply affected me ; and a hunger was increased in my heart after the enjoyment of the Lord's power, and the operation of it, whether it was in mercy or judgment ; so I knew my faith to be increased in the sufficiency of the power of God. Then I saw it was good for me that I was afflicted ; for "before I was afflicted I went astray ;" I found (as David said) his

rod and his staff comforted me; and the Lord did often overshadow me with his love, and a sight of glorious things I had at that time.

I also had a vision, in which I beheld a sheep feeding in a very green pasture, by a pleasant river-side; and a wicked man, that envied the sheep, came and forced it into the river, and the sheep made for the other side; but a bridge being over the river, the man went over it and drove the sheep in again, and so resolved to drown it. When the sheep was almost lost, I saw a good man, that was the owner of the sheep, who caught hold and saved it and brought it into the pasture again; after which I saw the two men striving upon the bridge; and he who saved the sheep prevailed, and smote the other, and threw him into the river in which he would have drowned the sheep; and it took him away.

After this, great was my exercise, tossing and struggling with the power of darkness: being unskilful, and not grown in strength to resist the evil one, he gained ground upon me, and would have filled me with doubts and fears, so that I was ready to conclude I should never get through; but, with David, was like to say, "I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul." And when I had almost lost the hope of deliverance, then the Lord appeared by his mighty power, and rebuked the enemy, and delivered my soul from him that was too strong for me; he drew me out of the troubled waters, and brought my mind into true stillness, and to the proper place of right waiting upon him, where I found my strength to be renewed; and the overshadowing of his power I often felt to my great comfort, so that I was made to admire his goodness.

In the year 1678, the Lord moved upon me by his

Spirit to bear a testimony to, his name and Truth. Great then was my exercise : seeing the work to be very weighty, and looking out at my own weakness made me unwilling to give up to answer the Lord's requirings ; but the Lord, in his great love, filled my soul with the emanations of his power, which strengthened and encouraged me, that I was made willing to give up in obedience unto his divine will. Then in great dread and fear I stood up, and bore a public testimony in our own meeting, warning Friends *to be more inward and faithful to the manifestations of the light and grace of God in their souls.* And after I had answered the requirings of the Lord, I found great peace flowing in my soul, which so prevailed upon my spirit, that I was bowed down under the sense of the Lord's goodness ; and the weight of the exercise which I had felt upon me was removed.

One morning, as I was meditating on the great love and mercy of God unto my soul, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, *Be bold and courageous for my name's sake, and I will raise thee up ;* and shortly after he moved upon me to go to Talentire, to the Presbyterians' meeting. I was under a continual exercise for several days and nights, so that I could scarce either eat or sleep ; and the word of the Lord was as a fire in my bones, that I had no peace till I had given up to it : so I went, and the Lord was with me, and shewed me what I had to do. When I came into the meeting at Talentire, I stood amongst them in great fear and dread ; and immediately the people began to say, I was a Quaker, and was come to disturb the meeting : some cried, ' put him forth,' others, ' let him alone ;' so they were divided, as the multitude amongst whom Paul was concerned to preach the gospel. Some pulled to have

me out, and others seemed to stop them. But they put me out, and shut the door, and many people followed me. I stood up amongst them at the window, and delivered the message I had to them, which was, '*This is the day of the visitation, and the revelation of the power and Spirit of Christ in your hearts; therefore resist not the day of the visitation and revelation of God's Spirit; for if you do, it will rise up in judgment against you, when you will not be able to resist.*' After I had thus spoken, they ran to me and threw me down, dragged my head against the stones, and put me out of the gate. Then I spoke to them; but two of them came and haled me down the street. And finding myself clear, I said, 'Your blood be upon your own heads, for I am clear of it.' So I came away in great peace of mind, being sensible of the overshadowing of the love of God, and was filled with praises unto his most holy name.

And soon after, the Lord by his Spirit moved upon me to go to the Baptists' meeting at Broughton; unto which I gave up; and the Lord was with me to my consolation. So I went, in obedience to the will of the Lord, into their meeting, and staid a considerable time, until the preacher, who was a stranger, made a stop: then I spoke, and desired liberty to clear myself among them; after which I directed the people to *the light of Christ Jesus*. John Palmer the elder bid me begone out of his house, and commanded his son to put me forth; so he took me by the shoulders and pushed me out at the door, and kept me there till the meeting was ended. Then I went in again, and preached unto them *the light of Christ Jesus that shined in their hearts, in order to give them the knowledge of the glory of God*. Thus, although I was thrust out of doors, yet the Lord made way for me to clear myself of the weight that was upon me, blessed

be his name for ever. But great was the confusion that soon appeared, many of them speaking all at once; some asking, What beast was that which was come amongst them? Others answered, It was none, but a man or a boy. But the Lord was with me in my testimony, and by the effusion of his power gave me dominion over the unclean spirits; and the witness of God in the hearts of several, was reached, who soon after came out from amongst them, and received the Truth in the love of it, viz., John Ribton, (who came to be a minister of the gospel,) and several others. And when I was clear I came away, and witnessed that saying to be fulfilled, Psalm cxix. 165, "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them."

After some time, the Lord engaged me to visit Friends in this county; and as I gave up in obedience thereto, I witnessed the renewings of Divine love in my heart, which was cause of joy and true gladness to my soul. In my return home, a concern came upon me to go and speak to George Larkham, a Presbyterian preacher, at Talentire; which brought a fresh exercise upon my mind, because I was unwilling to answer what the Lord required of me, insomuch that my natural strength was almost taken from me: then I was made willing to do whatsoever the Lord required of me. So I went, in the fear of the Lord, into George Larkham's house. As soon as he saw me he was in great fury and rage, and asked me what business I had there?—I told him my business was to clear my conscience in the sight of God, which I desired he would suffer me to do;—but he in great rage ran into an upper room and ordered me to be put out, for I was a Quaker: his wife being also in a great passion, said, there was a great fault of the magistrates, in not putting such

fellows as I in the stocks ;—which shewed the bitterness of her spirit, and that she only wanted power to follow the example, and imitate the barbarity of her brethren in New England. Then George Larkham came down in great fury, and asked why they had not put me forth ?—I desired him, if he was a christian, to show his moderation as a christian.—Then he charged me with saying that he was no christian ; which I told him was false :—he said, some of my persuasion had said it ;—I bid him charge *them* with it, and not *me* falsely. Then he took me by the shoulders and thrust me out of the house, as his followers had done before : and as I was going out I spoke to him what I had upon my mind. So I came away in much peace, feeling the Lord to overshadow me with his living presence, which filled my heart with praises to his great name.

In the year 1680, I felt the Lord, by his power, to draw me forth to visit Friends in Westmoreland, the dales of Yorkshire, the bishoprick of Durham and Northumberland ; in which journey the Lord was merciful unto me, in preserving and giving me my life for a prey. Great was the zeal that was raised in me for the Truth, and against any thing that was contrary to and opposed it. This was a time when Friends were under great exercises and deep sufferings, by reason of wicked and ungodly men ; for many were imprisoned, fined, and had their goods taken from them, for no other reason but performing their religious duties to Almighty God, in worshipping him in spirit and truth : although no informers came to any of the meetings appointed by me, in all my journey through Westmoreland, &c., which bowed my mind in true thankfulness unto the God of heaven and earth, for his merciful preservation and divine protection.

In the year 1682, a concern was upon me from the Lord, to go into Ireland in the service of the Truth, under which I laboured for some time. Thomas Wilson, a young man from Caldbeck, was at our week-day meeting, as he was going to visit Friends in Ireland ; and although I did not acquaint him with what was upon my mind, yet after he was gone, my exercise increased upon me to such a degree, that I freely gave up unto the manifestations of God's will revealed to me. Then I acquainted my brethren therewith, and they had unity with me therein, believing the Lord had called me thereunto. So I took leave of them in much tenderness in the love of God, took shipping at Workington for Ireland, and arrived safe at Dublin.

The next day I went to their meeting ; and the Lord by his ancient goodness did eminently break in amongst us, and refreshed our souls with his divine love, which brought me under a renewed obligation to elebrate his great name, who had preserved me both by sea and land. After the meeting I went into the country, and visited Friends' Meetings until I came into the county of Wexford, where I met with Thomas Wilson ; and our concerns being one way, we travelled together through the provinces of Leinster and Munster, in great humility, godly fear and true brotherly love ; our hearts being often tendered in meetings, and the hearts of Friends also, in most places where we came. So being clear of those parts, my companion staid at Waterford, and I went north, and had several meetings amongst people that professed not with us ; and several were convinced.

Now finding myself clear of the north, I returned to Dublin, and had some service in that city ; so took shipping for Whitehaven. In our voyage, near the

Isle of Man, we had a great storm and were in danger ; but through the good providence of God we got to land in Wales, where I had some service for the Truth ; after which, we proceeded on our voyage, and arrived safe at Whitehaven ; so went home, being truly thankful unto the Lord for his manifold preservations both by sea and land.

In the year 1683, I felt drawings in my mind to visit Friends in Scotland ; and being resigned to answer what I believed was required of me, I took my journey on foot, not having any companion ; yet the love of God was such in my heart, that I freely gave up to follow him. When I was in the Border, a young man belonging to that meeting had a concern to go along with me, whose company was both serviceable and acceptable ; our unity was sweet and pleasant in the Lord. We travelled on foot through the south, and the Lord was with us and enabled us to perform our services. Then we passed into the north to Aberdeen, &c., where we met with our friends George Rook and Andrew Taylor. We were at several meetings together, and were sweetly comforted in the Lord and one another. We had a meeting on board a ship that was bound for Jersey in America, there being several Friends on board that were passengers. After the meeting, we took leave of them in the love of God ; so travelled through the north, and had many refreshing seasons in the enjoyment of God's love : several hearts were reached and some convinced. When we were clear, we returned into the west and visited Friends there ; so returned into England as with sheaves in our bosoms, which occasioned praises to spring in our hearts to the Lord.

Some time after, I was drawn forth to visit Friends

in the north of England ; and proceeding into Westmoreland, at Kendal I met with my dear companion, Thomas Wilson, who was my fellow-labourer in the work of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We had a meeting there, and it being a time of great persecution, many Friends suffered deeply by wicked and unreasonable men ; but the Lord supported us in the time of exercises. A little after we were gone into the meeting, the officers came and were very rude : Thomas Wilson stood up and preached the gospel in the authority of the power of God, which mightily affected the hearts of Friends : then one of the officers came and pulled him out of the meeting, and kept him there : after which I was engaged in the love of God, and stood up and bore a testimony to his name and Truth. Then the officers said, ‘ There is another preaching ; they will never be quiet so long as any are left in the house.’ So they took me forth also, and kept us a little time, but suffered us to go into the meeting again ; and we sat down and waited upon the Lord. Some time after, I was engaged in prayer : they came rushing in to pull me away again, but the power of the Lord was over all, which so chained down that persecuting spirit, that they had not power to break up our meeting ; but were frustrated, and the name of our God exalted, and set over the opposers ; many of their hearts were reached by his divine power : thus we saw that saying fulfilled, “ When a man’s ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.” —Prov. xvi. 7. Then I parted with my companion, and went into Lancashire and the edge of Yorkshire, where several were convinced at that time. Finding myself clear, I returned home and followed my trade, (which was that of a fellmonger) and was dili-

gent in attending our own meetings, in which I had peace and inward satisfaction of soul.

In the year 1684 I with my companion Thomas Wilson, travelled through Lancashire and Cheshire into Wales. Friends were still under deep exercises by reason of the persecuting spirit which was risen up against the church of God, insomuch that Friends were often imprisoned, fined, and had their goods taken from them. But we were drawn forth by the love of God, who sets bounds to the waters and rebukes the seas ; causeth the horn of the wicked to be broken, and restraineth the remainder of the wrath of man, when he hath suffered the rod of the wicked to be laid upon the back of the righteous for a season, for a trial of their faith, that it may appear much more precious than that of gold ; that by it, they may live through all, and follow the Lamb through many tribulations, and know their garments washed in his precious blood. Blessed be the Lord, we were made witnesses of his divine power in our travels, both inwardly and outwardly.

We entered into North Wales in the depth of winter ; and all things were made pleasant unto us in the love of God, which we were measurably made partakers of. At the first meeting we had in Wales the Lord did eminently appear amongst us, and filled our hearts with praises unto his holy name. So we travelled through North Wales, and had good service for the Truth. Robert Vahan was there convinced of the Truth, and became a very serviceable man, being afterwards called to the work of the ministry. Then we went into South Wales to Haverfordwest, and had good service there among the people. In all this way, no informers came to any of our meetings, until we came to Redstone in Pembrokeshire ; there we had

a meeting, unto which came two informers. My companion was preaching the word of the Lord to the people when they came in : one of them came to take him out of the meeting, but the Lord restrained him : so he went on, and the Lord was effectually with him by his irresistible power ; and in much plainness and tenderness he set the testimony of Truth over their heads. After he had cleared himself he sat down : then the informer swore a great oath, and said, ‘ There should not another word be spoken there : ’ but finding my heart engaged in the love of God to pray to Him, and implore his divine assistance, the informer came to pull me away, but he could not ; for the Lord by his power restrained him, and set his Truth over the heads of the opposers. Friends’ spirits were raised into dominion over the adversary and his instruments, the meeting ended in praising and giving of thanks unto the Lord, and we came away in sweet peace. We may say, the Lord fulfilled the promise made to Jerusalem, unto us, “ That he would be unto her a wall of fire round about, and the glory in the midst of her.”—Zech. ii. 5. For the overshadowing of his love was with us, and we had many precious meetings in those parts.

Then we went to Swansea and had service there ; persuading the people to be reconciled to God and one to another. So came into North Wales, where I parted with my companion ; he returned home ; but I having a concern upon me to visit Friends in Ireland, went through the north into the Isle of Anglesea, and took shipping at Holyhead for Dublin. Having a fair wind, we had a prosperous voyage, until we got over the bar of Dublin ; then a great storm arose, the vessel struck ground, and we were in danger of being wrecked ; but the Lord ordered it otherwise. So I got safe to Dublin, which filled

my heart with thankfulness to the Almighty for so wonderfully preserving us. John Burnyeat landed in the North of Ireland, through great danger, at the same time: it was such a storm, that few vessels got to Ireland for two weeks after. Then in obedience to the will of God, I went into Leinster and visited Friends, where I met with Thomas Trafford,* who travelled through Munster with me. I had a general warning to Friends, *to be careful that they might have a habitation and settlement in the power of God; for a time of trial would come upon them, that would try all their foundations; and none would be able to stand, nor be safe, but those that should be settled upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and gathered under his peaceable*

* Thomas Trafford resided in Ireland. According to *the Testimony of Friends of the county of Wicklow*, "he was convinced of the Truth about the year 1670, and soon after bore a faithful testimony for the Lord against that grand oppression of tithe; and because, for conscience' sake, he could not pay the same, he suffered imprisonment for two years. Soon after he came out of prison, the Lord committed to him a dispensation of the Gospel, which he preached freely and faithfully in this nation, through which he often travelled, also several times in some parts of England, &c. Several were convinced by his ministry, and Friends were often comforted by the sweetness of that life and power which attended it. He was also zealously concerned in discipline, being endued with a sound and clear understanding, very tender and encouraging to the good, and zealous against the appearance of evil. Towards the latter part of his life he suffered great bodily affliction; yet [he] bore it with patience, was preserved in a sweet frame of spirit, and continued very serviceable in [his] meeting unto his latter end. He died in the year 1703."

Thomas Trafford appears to have borne a large share of the concern that rested on many Friends of Ireland in his day, that themselves and their fellow-professors might be preserved from that "*spirit which leads into the lawful things of the world, beyond the bounds of Truth.*" (See a weighty Epistle on that subject, with a Preface and Postscript thereto, in *Rutty's History of Friends in Ireland.*)

*government ; those would know a dwelling safely, and a being quiet from the fear of evil.** And as the Lord gave the word, he also gave power and strength

* That the fulfilment of this prediction soon followed, is a well-known historical fact: the following summary account of it furnishes occasion for contemplating, with reverent admiration, the sufficiency of that divine Arm, whereby Friends who kept faithful to their testimony against wars and fightings, were preserved; and enabled, under peculiarly adverse circumstances, to continue in the performance of their civil and religious duties.

“The latter end of this year (1688) a war broke forth in this nation, threatening a general overthrow of all the English and Protestants; and in that frightful time, many of these left their dwellings, stocks and flocks, and fled, some to England and some to arms. But Friends generally kept their places, and kept up their meetings, and trusted the Lord with their lives and substance, that rules all things in heaven and earth, and bounds the sea and the raging waves thereof; though under great perils of divers sorts, by reason of multitudes of wicked, unmerciful, blood-thirsty men, banded together. And Friends in some places, became great succourers to some of the distressed English, that had their houses burnt; and were themselves driven out of their places, being stript of their substance: and a remarkable thing, never to be forgotten, was, that they that were in government then, seemed to favour us and endeavour to preserve Friends. But notwithstanding all endeavours used, Friends sustained great losses, and went through many perils, by the outrageous rabble and plunderers of the country, besides the hardships of the army: so that many lost most of their visible substance, and some were stript naked, and their houses and dwellings were set on fire over their heads, and burnt to the ground; and their lives were in such danger, that it seemed almost impossible that they should be preserved; yet, in the midst of such lamentable exercises, the Lord’s eminent hand of deliverance wonderfully appeared to their great admiration and comfort.”—*Rutty’s History of Friends in Ireland.*

It is also well known, that the safety of conforming to the peaceable spirit of the Gospel, was in like manner manifested in the case of Friends during the Irish Rebellion, in the year 1798.

to publish it. It seized upon my spirit when I was in that nation before, that a day of trial would be brought upon the inhabitants thereof ; I beheld as if they were encompassed with weapons of war. Having cleared myself, I returned to Dublin, and took shipping for Whitehaven, where I landed safely, and came home as with sheaves in my bosom ; feeling the evidence of God's Spirit speaking peace to me, which my soul desired more than all.

In the year 1686, I was moved of the Lord to travel into the west and south parts of England ; and as I was drawn by his Holy Spirit, I was made willing to follow him, in which I found true peace ; and as my eye was kept single, every day waiting for the motion of the word of life, I found the Lord to fit and qualify me for every day's service, and endue with power from on high. So I took my journey through several counties : and when I came to Bristol, I found Friends were under great sufferings ; being kept out of their meeting-house, the meeting was held in the yard : it consisted mostly of women and children, many Friends being then in prison ; yet the Lord was graciously pleased to own us with the overshadowings of his love, whereby we were encouraged to trust in Him alone, who is able to preserve his people in the midst of afflictions, and work their deliverance at his own pleasure.

From Bristol I went into Cornwall, and had several meetings in places and towns where none had been before, and found great openness among the people. At Newlyn and Mousehole they threatened to stone me ; but the Lord restrained them, and enabled me to preach the way of life and salvation in the authority and power of God, by which many hearts were reached, and a love raised in the people. I came

away in peace, and returned into Devonshire, where I had a meeting in the street at a town called Kirton : there were many hundreds of people, some of whom were very sober and attentive ; but others behaved very rudely and cast stones at me, which was occasioned by the instigation of a priest, who advised them to stone me out of town, (as I was told afterwards ;) but the Lord preserved me from harm, and gave me courage and boldness to proclaim the everlasting Gospel amongst them ; his power was richly made manifest, and many hearts were reached thereby ; divers were convinced of the Truth, and a meeting was afterwards settled in that town.

The next day I had a meeting at a place not far distant, where were many sober people ; but a constable came and took me, and carried me before one Justice Tuckfield, who said, He was informed that I had kept a conventicle, contrary to law.—I asked, Who informed him ?—He replied, I suppose you cannot deny it.—I told him, The law did not enjoin any man to be his own accuser.—Then in a very mild manner he said, The constable informed him ;—at which the constable was a little confused, and appeared ashamed to be called an informer by the justice. After some discourse, the justice spoke kindly to me, and said, He would show me all the favour he could, and if I had any thing further to speak, he was willing to hear me.—I replied, I am glad that I am brought before a magistrate so willing to hear, and from whom I expect justice ;—which accordingly I had. I spoke what the Lord opened in my heart to him and the rest of the family, who seemed to be much affected therewith. Then he gave me my liberty, and prayed that God might go along with me wheresoever I went. Thus I came to witness that

saying of Christ Jesus our Lord to be fulfilled, which he spoke to his disciples, viz., "Ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak, for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."—Matt. x. 18—20. So I may say, the Lord is the same unto all that he sends forth, (though as lambs among wolves,) and is mouth and wisdom to his little ones; goes along with them, and bears them up in all exercises, blessed be his name for ever.

Then I came into Somersetshire and had many blessed meetings: several were convinced of the Truth: I also went to Bristol. The storm of persecution being somewhat abated, Friends who had been in prison were set at liberty: we had very large meetings, and the Lord, by his infinite love, was graciously pleased to manifest his power among us, by which our hearts were tendered before him. It was a day of God's visitation to the inhabitants of that city; many hearts were reached, several were convinced and received the Truth. So being clear of the city I went into Wiltshire, where a crafty, wicked spirit had been at work among Friends, which had separated several from God, his church and people; among whom I laboured for the reconciling and bringing of them unto God again: and the Lord, by his Spirit, enabled me to bear my testimony, and the hearts of several were reached and helped thereby. When I had visited Friends in that county, I appointed a meeting to take my leave of them; and several of the Separates were there, under whose

dark spirits my soul had been much oppressed, and travailed in heaviness and sorrow, which made me cry unto the Lord for deliverance; and He, that never said unto the seed of Jacob, "Seek my face in vain," heard and answered; He bore up my spirit in deep afflictions, and gave me ability to clear myself, and place judgment upon that rending spirit which was lifted up above the pure fear of God; so that I came away in great peace, having my heart filled with praises unto the Lord.

Then I travelled into Dorsetshire, visited Friends in that county, and had good service; several were convinced of the Truth. Finding my heart engaged in the love of God to visit the inhabitants of the Isle of Portland, in obedience to the Lord's requirings I went, divers Friends from Weymouth accompanying me. We had a meeting there, to which several of the inhabitants came: the house not being large enough to contain them, we kept the meeting without doors; and when I was bowed down in prayer unto the Lord, a constable came and dragged me from off my knees, with an intent to have cast me into a deep pool of water; but the people would not suffer him: so he left me, and I continued supplicating the name of the Lord. After I arose from prayer, I was engaged in the love of God to bear a testimony among the people; when the constable came again, and dragged me from among them, cast me down among stones, and bruised my body to the shedding of my blood, beat me upon my breast with his fist, and said, 'If I would not go out of the island, he would put me in the stocks,'—and was going to do so, but was hindered by another man. Then the people gathered about me, and I exhorted them to fear the Lord; which so enraged the constable, that

he took hold of me, and hit me several blows upon my breast, and dragged me away, abusing me both with hands and tongue until he had wearied himself: then he commanded six idle, drunken men, to drag me away, who took me by the legs and arms, and dragged my head against the stones, whereby I lost much blood. Many of the people followed weeping, being troubled to see me so much abused; for some of my blood was upon all those that laid violent hands upon me. Then the constable came again, and struck me several times; thus they continued dragging and beating me until I was scarce able to stand, but as I was supported by two Friends. Many concluded I was killed; but the Lord made it very easy to me by the sweetness of his love, with which my heart was filled to the inhabitants of that island; so that I heartily desired the Lord would forgive those that had done me most harm. Many hearts were reached that day by the power of God.

After the meeting was over, I returned to Weymouth, and had a meeting there that night, to which several of the inhabitants came, and a blessed, heavenly meeting we had; the Lord's power and presence being manifested amongst us, to the refreshing and comforting of our souls. From thence I travelled to Ringwood and Southampton, and into the Isle of Wight, where I had some service among the people: then through Hampshire and Surrey, visiting Friends' meetings all along until I came to London, where I had a comfortable time among Friends.

After I had visited Friends in that city, I went into Kent, and laboured in the work of the gospel in that ability God gave to me, in which I found true peace; and many were convinced. From thence I

went into Sussex, and when I had visited Friends there, returned to London. After some stay there, I travelled into Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk ; and the Lord largely manifested his love to me, by which I was enabled to perform the work and service he had called me unto ; so that I found my heart to be daily engaged to follow him in the way of his requirings. Then I went to Norwich, where Friends had undergone much persecution and imprisonment, but then had some liberty : many people came to our meetings, and were very open to receive the testimony of Truth. I had several comfortable meetings among God's suffering children. After I had travelled through several parts, I returned to London again ; where I met with my brethren, who came from several parts of this nation to attend the Yearly Meeting. The glory of the Lord was richly manifested amongst us, and opened our hearts unto him and one unto another. Many living testimonies were borne to his great name ; so that I may say, it was like the time of Pentecost, when the disciples of Christ were met, and filled with the Holy Ghost ; for we were met with one accord, and our hearts were truly tendered in the love of God ; whereby we were enabled to offer unto him the sacrifice of broken hearts, acceptable and well-pleasing in his sight, who is God, blessed for ever.

Having for some time, had drawings in my mind to visit Friends in Holland, and some parts adjacent, I took my journey from London along with Peter Fearon,* who had the like concern. We went to

* Peter Fearon resided at Seaton, in Cumberland. He was educated in the way of the church of England (so called.) During his apprenticeship, he was convinced of the Truth as professed by Friends ; and continuing faithful, he became con-

Colchester, and thence to Harwich, where we took shipping: and it was shewed me we should meet with some exercise on the coast of Holland; which accordingly we did. For after we made land, we took up a ship that was turned adrift, which had neither men nor goods in her, a Turkish pirate having taken both. Soon after, we came in sight of the Turkish vessel, which made after us; and our men began to be afraid, and altered their course, in order to make for a point of land that was in sight; for the master said, He would venture our lives and the ship, before we should be taken captives by the Turks. My mind being inwardly retired to the Lord, he shewed me, he would not suffer them to harm us; and that was the strait, which I had a sight, we should meet with. So I desired the master to alter his course and stand for the harbour; but he was very unwilling; although, after some entreaty, he gave orders to bear up the helm and steer for the harbour. Then the Turks altered their course, and we escaped, and got safe to our desired port at the Brill; having seen the Lord's power made manifest in preserving us from the hands of unreasonable men; which brought us under a renewed obligation to bless and praise his name.

cerned to bear a public testimony to the virtue and excellency of it. He travelled in the service of the Gospel in most parts of England, as well as in Holland and parts of Germany (as above), and visited Friends in Scotland and Ireland several times. He was an able minister, sound in doctrine, convincing to gainsayers, confirming and edifying to the churches; very serviceable in meetings for discipline, and zealously concerned therein for promoting good order, being particularly gifted for that excellent work. He died in the year 1734, aged 83, having been a minister about 54 years. — (See *Piety Promoted*, part vii.)

The next day, we took our journey for Rotterdam, and the day following had a meeting there, and spoke to the people by an interpreter, which was something hard for us ; yet the Lord, who called us into his service, fitted us for it by his living power, and was effectually with us to the bearing up of our spirits, and settling them into such a frame as the service required. After the meeting was ended, we took our journey to Amsterdam, and were there at the time of the Yearly Meeting. We had many heavenly seasons together ; the Lord overshadowed us with his love ; and in *that*, our hearts were bound up with him, and one with another. In that city we had much exercise of spirit ; for many people resorted thither from several parts, and some were reached by the Truth. And after the meetings were over, the interpreter told me of a city called Horn, in which there was a people inquiring after the Truth ; which I was glad of, for I had a concern for the place before I left my outward habitation. So we took our journey to Alkmaer, and had a meeting there ; then went to Horn, where we were gladly received by a sober people, who had never been visited by Friends before, and were willing to have a meeting with us. A meeting was held accordingly, and the Lord favoured us with his heavenly power, whereby we were enabled to proclaim the everlasting gospel amongst them ; which so affected their hearts that several confessed to the Truth. We came away in peace, took our voyage for Friesland, and travelled through it, having several meetings amongst the people : the Lord's heavenly power and presence still attended, and preserved us both by sea and land ; for which we were truly thankful to him, who is God worthy for ever.

Then we went to Groningen ; also to Embden, and had a meeting there, to which many of the magistrates came. When we were clear of that city, we returned back to Amsterdam ; and the Lord was pleased to go along with us, and sweetened all our exercises. I went to the Jews' Synagogue, and had a dispute with one of them in the audience of the people. He acknowledged what I spoke was true : I was concerned to speak of the new covenant which God promised he would make with the house of Judah and Israel, Jeremiah xxxi. 33, that He would write his law in their hearts, and put his Spirit in their minds ; and the law is light, and the commandment a lamp, and the reproof of instruction is the way of life. Then I asked him, If he did not find something in the secret of his heart which reprov'd him for sin ?—He owned, he did.—I told him, *That* was the appearance of the Spirit of Christ, which reprov's for sin and unbelief.—Then he asked me, If the law was not good, and what I thought concerning their worship ?—I answered, I may say, as the Queen of Sheba said, when she went to see the wisdom of Solomon, and the order that was in his house, that one half was not told her ; so though I had heard of their rudeness and lightness in their devotion, yet one half was not told me, of what my eyes had seen that day.—I reprov'd them for it, and came away in much peace.

Then we came to Rotterdam, and took shipping for Colchester in England. In our voyage we were in danger by reason of a great storm ; but we saw the wonders of the Lord wrought for our deliverance, and got safe to our intended port ; so that we may say, the Lord is large in his love, and of great kindness to them that are truly given up to follow him.

Then we travelled to London, where we had deep exercises with several bad spirits ; but the Lord was with us, and enabled us to bear our testimonies against them, and for the Truth, and those that lived in obedience thereunto ; amongst whom we were truly comforted, finding Truth to prevail and righteousness to flourish, which was what our souls travailed for.

Having cleared ourselves of that city, we proceeded to Reading, and had some service there ; at which place I parted with my companion ; then travelled into Oxfordshire, and visited Friends : the sweetness of the love of God was felt in their assemblies, which occasioned praises to be sounded forth to his name. From thence I went to Bristol and Ross ; also to Monmouth, where I had a meeting in the Market-house, to which many people came : some were very rude and cast a fire-ball at me ; but the Lord by his power preserved us, so that it did neither me nor any there harm. He gave me power to proclaim his everlasting Gospel, and enabled me to set the testimony of Truth over the heads of the opposers of it ; so that they became very sober, and I had time to clear myself amongst them. After the meeting was over, they desired me to have another, and said, I should have no disturbance : but finding myself clear, I went from thence and travelled through South Wales, visiting Friends' meetings ; and the Lord was with me to my great comfort. Then I went to Cardigan along with another Friend ; and we had a meeting in the Sessions House, to which came the mayor, aldermen, and several people of the town. The Lord was with us, and gave strength and ability to proclaim the Gospel amongst them ; by which several hearts were tendered and

reached ; many confessed to the Truth and invited us to their houses. We went to visit them, and had a dispute with a high professor, relating to our principles and doctrine : the Lord stood by us, and gave us wisdom to answer such things as were objected against us ; and the people went away generally well satisfied. After this meeting, I travelled into North Wales, and visited Friends ; and was refreshed amongst them in the love of God. At Dolobran I met with Thomas Wilson and William Greenup, who were travelling towards Bristol ; we had several meetings together, and were sweetly refreshed in the love of God ; after which I returned home and staid some time.

Then finding my heart engaged to visit Friends in Yorkshire, I went in company with another Friend to York, where I had many precious meetings ; and a concern came upon me to visit those that had gone out from amongst Friends into a contentious spirit. In obedience to the Lord's requirings I went ; and warned them to repent and return unto the Lord whilst he strove with them, lest their day of visitation should pass over, and it might be said, as it was to Ephraim, " Let him alone, he is joined unto idols : " but it may be said of them as it was of some of old, that " they went out from us, because they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us ; but they went out, that they might be made manifest they were not all of us." After I had cleared myself, I came away in true peace of soul, travelled through the east of Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland, and visited Friends ; then returned home, and had many precious meetings amongst my brethren in the love of God.

Some time after, I had a concern upon me to visit the churches of Christ in the nation of Ireland : so I went to Whitehaven, and took shipping for Dublin. The ship's company were high professors, and there was also a Presbyterian preacher on board. They began to reflect against Friends and their principles ; but the Lord gave me wisdom and ability to set the Truth over their heads, and to prove our principles by Scripture ; which bowed me in thankfulness to the Lord, who never forsakes those that are truly concerned for his Truth and glory ; but bears up their spirits in all exercises, and carries them through to the exaltation of his own name. We landed safe at Dublin, where I met with my dear companion Thomas Wilson, and many other travelling Friends from several parts of the nation, who were come to the Half-year's Meeting, which was very large : a blessed, heavenly meeting we had, in the enjoyment of God's love, Friends being in sweet unity one with another. Our hearts were filled with joy and gladness ; and many living testimonies were borne, with heavenly exhortations one to another, to be faithful and walk worthy of the Lord's tender mercies ; that so they might be continued unto us, and we, in the enjoyment of them, might grow in the life of righteousness as God's heritage and husbandry, and bring forth fruits to his honour. After several days spent in such exhortations, and taking inspection into the state and affairs of the churches of Christ the nation over, the meeting ended in a sense of God's love, with hearts full of praises to his holy name.

After the meeting I travelled through Wicklow and Wexford, to the provincial meeting at Limerick ; and the Lord was graciously pleased to go along with me, and strengthened me with his living presence,

whereby I was enabled to answer his requirings. From thence I returned to the provincial meeting at Rosenthal, where I met with John Burnyeat, who was as a tender nursing father to me : we had many heavenly seasons together. I travelled into the north, where I visited Friends, and laboured in that ability God gave me ; warning and cautioning people *to repent, and turn to the Lord whilst the day of their visitation lasted ; advising Friends to faithfulness, and to mind their settlement in the Lord's power, that would remain when all other things might fail.* Then finding myself clear, I returned to Dublin, and took shipping for Whitehaven, where I arrived safely and staid some time.

Afterwards I went into North Wales, having another Friend in the ministry along with me ; and the Lord enabled us to proclaim his everlasting gospel, whereby many hearts were reached, and the churches of Christ confirmed. When we had visited North Wales, we travelled into the south parts ; into Pembrokeshire, Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire, and so to Bristol, Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall ; and had good service. Great exercises attended us in divers respects ; the nation was in confusion by reason of the revolution of government, which happened at that time, and the devouring sword was drawn ; but the Lord in mercy, to the people, restrained it. We laboured in the love of God amongst them, for the turning of their minds to the light of Christ Jesus ; that thereby they might come to know him to rule over them, and that Scripture fulfilled, that though “ every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood ; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given : and the government shall be upon his shoulder : his name shall

be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace ; of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end."—Isa. ix. 5—7. Blessed be the name of our God, many can say he rules in their hearts, and is teaching the same lesson now by his Spirit, that he taught his followers when in that prepared body, even to love and pray for their enemies ; and these know his kingdom (as he said himself,) not to be of this world, therefore they cannot fight ; but are subject to the royal law, to do to all men as they would be done by. In this peaceable spirit we travelled, and laboured to preach the gospel in many parts of this nation. So came to London to the Yearly Meeting, where Friends from several parts were ; and the Lord, by his heavenly power, overshadowed our souls, and opened the fountain of wisdom amongst us, which was in many as deep waters, and flowed through them to the refreshing of God's heritage ; in a sense of which the meeting ended. After we had travelled through Sussex and Kent, I, with my companion, returned to York, and was at the Yearly Meeting there ; then went home, where I staid some time.

Finding drawings in my mind to visit the churches of Christ in the east of England, I travelled into Lincolnshire, and some other parts ; then into Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, and so to Bristol, where I met with my companion Thomas Wilson. We travelled together as far as the Land's End, and had good service in several places, having meetings in towns where none had been before. I came back by Bristol, into Wales, through Gloucestershire ; and through some part of Oxfordshire, by London to Surrey, and Hamp-

shire. After I had visited Friends in those counties, I returned to London to the Yearly Meeting, where I met with many brethren; and we were comforted in the Lord, and had sweet unity and concord together. After the meeting, dear John Tiffin,* a Friend in the ministry, and I, travelled through Berkshire and Wiltshire to Bristol; from whence we returned home in peace, with true thankfulness for the Lord's continued favours.

* John Tiffin, who resided at Mockeskin, near Pardshaw in Cumberland, travelled at various times in the work of the ministry. In the year 1654 he went to Ireland. At that early period in the history of Friends, there were but very few of them in that nation: with these few, and in endeavouring to promote the further spreading of the Truth, John Tiffin spent five or six weeks. His ministry was at that time, in few words, but edifying and very serviceable. He attended the small meeting held in William Edmundson's house at Lurgan, (the first settled meeting of Friends in Ireland,) and travelled with him to several places: they had good service for Truth, although through great opposition. At Belfast, the inhabitants shut their ears, doors, and hearts against them; yet this did not hinder them from holding a meeting near that town, in the open air. They sat down, and kept their meeting in a place where three lanes met, and were a wonder to the people who came about them; and something was spoken *to direct their minds to God's Spirit in their own hearts*. These exercises, though in much weakness and fear, spread the name and fame of Truth; thereby many honest people were induced to inquire after it, the number of Friends increased in those parts, and some were added to the meeting at Lurgan. In the next year, John Tiffin visited Ireland again, with James Lancaster. At a meeting held on the green at Lurgan, in the course of this visit, these Friends and William Edmundson met with much personal abuse.—See *Rutty's History*.

In the year 1676, J. T. accompanied John Burnyeat through Westmoreland and Yorkshire, to London; and in 1684, into the north of England and Scotland.—See *Whiting's Memoirs*.—He also took a short journey with James Dickinson in 1695.—See page 144. He died in the Twelfth Month 1700-1.

In the year 1690, I had a concern upon me to visit Friends in Scotland, and in company with another Friend, travelled into the west, where we had good service. Then we crossed through the country to Edinburgh, where many hearts were reached by the Truth. From thence we went down into the north to Robert Barclay's at Ury ; he travelled to Aberdeen with us, and through the north, and visited Friends. It was a time when there were great troubles in the nation, but the Lord preserved us every way ; and we returned to Robert Barclay's house to a General Meeting. At that time, dear Robert Barclay took the sickness, of which, a few days after we left his house, he died. I was thereby sorrowfully affected, in consideration of the loss the nation would have of him ; but our loss is his everlasting gain.*

After having travelled and laboured in the work of the gospel, through many dangers both inward and outward, we returned home as with sheaves in our bosoms ; being truly thankful unto the Lord, in that he had preserved us out of the hands of unreasonable men, and assisted us by his Spirit to answer his

* " James Dickinson visited Robert Barclay when on his death-bed : as he sat by him, the Lord's power and presence bowed their hearts together, and Robert Barclay was sweetly melted in the sense of God's love, and with tears expressed his love to all faithful brethren in England, who keep their integrity to the Truth ; and added, ' Remember my love to Friends in Cumberland, and at Swarthmore, and to dear George,' meaning George Fox, ' and to all the faithful everywhere ;' and [further] said, ' God is good still, and though I am under great weight of sickness and weakness as to my body, yet my peace flows ; and this I know, whatever exercises may be permitted to come upon me, it shall tend to God's glory and my salvation ; and in that I rest.' He died the 3rd of the Eighth Month, 1690."—*Piety Promoted*, art iii.

requirings : we found true peace to flow, and a willingness wrought in our hearts to follow Him wherever He was pleased to draw us, who is known to go in and out before his people ; blessed be his name for ever.

On the 23rd of the Eleventh Month, 1690, I took my journey for London. At Swarthmore, I met with the tidings of the removal of our dear friend George Fox, which occasioned deep sorrow in my heart : but when I turned my mind to the Lord, I found *he had done the work of his day, and was gone to rest ; and we must be content ; and they would be happy that followed his footsteps.* I proceeded to London, visiting Friends as I went ; from thence to Kingston, where I met with my companion Thomas Wilson. We returned to London, and afterwards went into Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, and had good service for the Truth : then returned to London again, where we staid the Yearly Meeting, and were truly refreshed in the love of God with our faithful brethren.

After the Yearly Meeting, I, with my dear companion Thomas Wilson, took our voyage for Barbadoes ; a concern having been upon me for many years, to visit Friends in America. The fulness of time being come, a willingness was wrought in my heart through the power of God, that I freely gave up to answer his requirings ; having experience he had not failed to help in the midst of imminent dangers : such were very apparent at that time, the English and French being at war. We left London on the 13th of the Fourth Month, 1691. Many Friends accompanied us down to Gravesend, where we had a meeting next day, and took our leave of Friends in much love and tenderness. The day following we went on board the ship and sailed to the

Downs, where we (staying some days for the fleet,) went ashore and had several precious meetings : the Lord's power was manifested to our great comfort ; by which we were made willing to take our lives as in our hands, leave our native country, and all in this world that was near to us, in obedience to his pure will.

From hence we set sail, and touched at Plymouth and Falmouth, where we went ashore and had several precious meetings : the Lord's wonted presence was witnessed, and we were comforted with our Friends ; praises be to his holy name for ever. We set sail from Falmouth on the 9th of the Fifth Month, and lost sight of land that night, being eighteen sail in company. After we had sailed a few days, we met with the French fleet, consisting of sixty or more vessels : they came up with us, fired several times at us, and laboured to compass us round ; so that there seemed little or no hopes for any of us to escape. But our cries and supplications were to the Lord, by whom deliverance comes, and true help is known in the time of need : and he, in this strait, made manifest his power ; and in an unexpected way to the eye of reason, deliverance came. We were not so much concerned for the loss of any thing in this world, or the cruelty they would inflict upon us, as for the honour and reputation of his Truth ; lest the enemies thereof should falsely vaunt themselves and say,—*that* God whom we served, was not able to save and carry us through in our service. But the Lord, who sees the sincerity of all hearts, shewed his wonders ; according to that saying of the Psalmist, “ they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep :” for the Lord heard us and

granted our request, when most of our visible hopes were gone. After all our fleet had struck and were taken by the French, except our ship and two others, and they were coming up to take ours, about the first hour in the afternoon, a thick fog came on and spread around us, which prevented them in their design. The fog continued for about four hours : then it became clear, and we discovered a large ship to windward, which was one of the French fleet. She bore down upon us ; but before she got up with us, the fog came on again and encompassed us about : [afterwards] the night came on, and we saw her no more. Then, not only ourselves, but all the ship's crew, confessed it was the Lord's doings. Next day we espied two ships to leeward, to which we hoisted English colours, and they answered ; being the two of our own company which had escaped the French. When First-day came, the masters and several of their crews and passengers of the other two ships, came aboard ours, and we had a meeting on the quarter-deck : the Lord's power was with us, and Truth's testimony was declared amongst them : several confessed thereto ; and our hearts were broken in a sense of God's love and wonderful mercies, that overshadowed our souls in secret retirement, upon the deep ocean. The captain of our ship was a very loving, kind man to us.

When we came into the latitude of Barbadoes, a ship to windward bore down upon us, which our master took to be a French privateer. He made preparation to fight her, and ordered all the passengers but Thomas and I, to take their quarters ; saying to us, ' As for you, I know it is contrary to your principle to fight ; Lord forbid I should compel any man contrary to his conscience ! take your quarters with

the doctor ;' at which the other passengers were angry. I told them,—To show it was not cowardice but conscience, we would take our quarters upon the quarter-deck ; which set the testimony of Truth over them, and they were quiet. When the ship came up with us, it proved an English vessel. We proceeded on our voyage, and landed at Bridgetown in Barbadoes, on the 24th of the Sixth Month. We found the hand of the Lord upon the inhabitants of that island, in visiting them with great sicknesses, of which many hundreds died. Our hearts being filled with the love of God, we were largely drawn forth to proclaim the everlasting gospel to the people ; and although the sickness was very infectious, and many that went over with us died, yet the Lord preserved us, and we went on in our service : he was effectually with us, and by his power the inhabitants of the island were alarmed. People flocked to our meetings, and they were full and large ; many were convinced, Friends confirmed, the mouths of gainsayers stopped, and the hearts of the faithful were made truly glad.

When we had travelled the island several times over, finding our spirits easy, we returned to Bridgetown ; were at their general meeting, and had a fine season to take our leave of Friends ; cautioning them *to live in unity together, and to keep in the one Spirit, that would keep them in one mind ; in which they would appear as lilies among thorns, and grow in the life of righteousness* : in much tenderness the meeting ended. The ship being under sail, we went to the water side, many people accompanying us. We were broken and tendered together in the sense of God's love ; and in much bowed-downness of spirit, our hearts were filled with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord

God and the Lamb. We set sail for New York, on the 22nd of the Eighth Month, and had a comfortable voyage till we came near the coast of the main land, where we met with a north-west storm; but through some difficulty arrived in New York harbour, on the 23rd of the Ninth Month. From thence we went to Long Island, and were at a general meeting, which was very large and full: our hearts were knit together in the love of God and unity of the one Spirit. We visited Friends generally in the island, and found great openness to preach the gospel of salvation unto the inhabitants thereof; for the Lord was with us, and was pleased to be mouth and wisdom to us, for the convincing and settling of many upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, who is a sanctuary to his people, where they dwell safely, and are quiet from fear of evil.

Being clear of the island, we took boat at New York and passed over to East Jersey, where we had many heavenly meetings. After we had visited Friends in East and West Jersey, and had good service among the people, we went into Pennsylvania, where meetings were full and large. Our hearts were opened, and strength was given to publish the word of God: he bore up our spirits in deep exercises, in our inward wrestlings and outward travels. It was the depth of winter, and meetings were held without doors, sometimes when there was deep snow; the meeting-houses not being large enough to contain the people. There is a tender-hearted people in that country, who love the Lord: we laboured and travailed for their growth and settlement in the Truth. After having had many heavenly meetings among them, we felt pressed in our minds to get on our journey. We travelled through the woods and wilder-

ness in deep snow ; and passed through many dangers in crossing the rivers upon the ice, until we came to Chester river in Maryland. Here we met with a few Friends, and had a good meeting among them. From thence we went down to Choptank, and visited Friends there ; then took boat over Chesapeake bay to the western shore in Maryland. It was hard frost, and we had to wade deep among the ice to get forth of the boat, because the sands prevented it from coming to the shore. Having got safely to land, we were the next day at their Quarterly Meeting ; where we laboured for the stirring up of all to righteousness, and that nothing might be given way to, that brings a reproach to our holy profession and pollutes the camp of God ; also that our unity might be kept in the bond of peace.

When we had visited Friends on that shore, we took boat to cross the bay again. Night coming on and a thick fog, we missed our course and were cast upon an island ; where we got to a house and lay on the ground among the negroes until next morning : then we set forward and got to the other side, and visited Friends. From thence we travelled to the eastern shore in Virginia ; having to pass over many dangerous rivers in boats and canoes. But the Lord still continued his mercies to us and his care over us, and many times manifested his power for our deliverance. Being clear of that side, we crossed Chesapeake bay to the western shore in Virginia with some difficulty, and landed from James river. Next day we took our journey, visited Friends, and had good service. Then we proceeded through the wilderness to Carolina ; where the floods were so great that we could not travel on horseback, but waded barefoot through swamps and waters for several miles.

Friends and [other] people were glad to see us, they not having had any visit from a travelling Friend for several years before : we had many comfortable meetings among them.

After we were clear, we took our journey back through the wilderness to the General Meeting at Chucatuck in Virginia. We warned them *to keep out of the superfluous fashions of the world, which had too much prevailed among many.* The Lord, by his power, broke in upon the meeting, and the entrance of his word gave life : the weak were confirmed, the faithful comforted, and judgment placed upon the head of the transgressor and that spirit of separation which was among them.

After we were clear of those parts, we went towards the falls of James river ; where we found a great openness among the people, several being convinced : we laboured in love for their settlement in the Truth, and the blessed order thereof : they were very willing to hearken to counsel, and received us gladly. From thence we went through the woods to Black Creek, (a place which had not been visited by Friends before,) and had a meeting there ; to which the sheriff and some officers with him came. When I was declaring the Truth among the people, the sheriff asked me, By whose authority I came there ?—I told him,—In the authority of the great God, to whom we must give an account.—After some discourse, he commanded us to leave the meeting ;—I desired him to shew his moderation, and hear what we had to say ; upon which, he and the officers went away, and we kept our meeting quietly, and several were reached by the Truth. After the meeting, we took our journey towards Maryland, and travelled about a hundred miles through the wilderness without a guide, ex-

cept part of the first day. That night we lodged in the woods, where we made a fire against the cold, and to keep the wild beasts from us ; it being in the First Month, and very cold weather. Next morning early we set forward, and travelled most part of the day. Near the evening we met with two men : one of them who was a justice, kindly invited us to his house, it being about ten miles distant : we went along with him, staid two or three days at his house, and had a meeting there : the justice was very loving and confessed to the Truth. Then we passed over Potomack river in a small Norway yawl, where I swam my horse three miles. We travelled through the woods to Patuxent river ; passed over to the western shore in Maryland, with much difficulty, danger, and charge ; and had many comfortable meetings in those parts. We then crossed Chesapeak bay, and travelled hard to get to the Yearly Meeting at Salem in Jersey, which was held in the Second Month. Here we met Friends from most parts of the country ; had many glorious meetings ; and were livingly opened to proclaim the everlasting gospel and day of God's love to the mourners in Sion, encouragement to the weak and feeble, and judgment to the fat and full. The meeting ended in love and unity, and our hearts were filled with praises to the Lord.

After the meeting at Salem, we went, in much bowed-downness of spirit, to Philadelphia, where George Keith had drawn several out from Friends into a separate spirit, to the dishonour of Truth and themselves. But the Lord was pleased eminently to favour us with his power and presence : he was mouth and wisdom to us, and enabled us to set the testimony of Truth over all the opposers of it, so that many hearts were reached and confirmed therein.

(For a more full account, see Thomas Wilson's Journal.)

When we were clear of those parts, we set forward with several other Friends, to the Yearly Meeting on Long Island. We found Friends there in sweet unity, and had many heavenly meetings; many hearts were tendered by the Lord's power, and the meeting ended in a sense of his love. After having had meetings at several other places on the island, (to which many people flocked, and in which our hearts were opened to proclaim the gospel of life and salvation,) we took ship for Rhode Island, and landed there the day before the Yearly Meeting began. Friends received us in that love by which we were drawn to visit them. We were many times favoured with the flowings of the pure life: the Lord overshadowed our souls, opened the fountain of his wisdom, and caused his doctrine to drop as the dew. The faithful were comforted, the careless awakened, and the wicked warned to repent. Friends were stirred up *to keep to the heavenly order of the gospel; to support their testimonies in the life of Truth; to be careful to watch over one another for good; to keep in the love of God; and to train up their children in the way of Truth.* When we had thus laboured and eased our spirits, we found the Lord near us, watering our spirits with the showers of his love; and our hearts were filled with thanksgiving to his most worthy name.

Then we travelled into Plymouth colony, in New England, and had many precious meetings amongst the professors: some were sober and were convinced, but others remained in their persecuting spirit, rejecting the Truth. At Sandwich, the priest came and disputed with me about religion: at first, he seemed pretty moderate, but I was concerned to lay

open his deceit, at which he grew peevish : then my companion had much discourse with him, and he was made to confess to the Truth. After which we went to Yarmouth, and found a tender-hearted people, and had service among them. As we returned, I overtook another priest on the road ; he put several queries to me, which I answered, and he confessed it was Truth. When we were about to part, he asked, Where I was going ?—I told him, To Boston ;—he said, He had known a time when it would have been a dear going there for me.—I told him, That was no credit to them, and that God would require it at their hands :—to which he confessed, and said, He was always against persecuting the Quakers, for which he was envied by many.—I asked him, If he had ever declared his mind in writing to the world, and denied such bloody practices ?—He answered, He had not ; but at all times appeared against it. So we parted from him and travelled to Boston, and had many public meetings in that place : but the hearts of the people were so hard and set against the Truth, notwithstanding the judgments of God which were fallen upon them for their wickedness, that few of them would receive our testimony. After we had visited Boston and Salem, and the meetings thereabout, we returned to Rhode Island, and had several precious meetings there.

Then we returned to Boston and Salem ; so to Hampton, where the people had left their habitations and were gone into forts, for fear of the French and Indians ; who had burned several towns, and carried many of the people captive to Canada. In this time of great fear, we found an openness among the people, and had a time to clear ourselves : after which we returned, not without some danger, (the

Indians having taken and killed people on the road that day) to Salem and Boston. Then an exercise came upon us to visit the Narraganset country, where no Friends dwelt ; we therefore proceeded through Plymouth colony, and had several meetings. At Warwick we had a large meeting, and several were convinced of the Truth. After which we travelled to Providence Yearly Meeting. Many hundreds of people were there : the Lord's power eminently broke in amongst us, and our hearts were melted together. After the meeting we took boat, and passed over to Rhode Island ; where we had to stir up the people to faithfulness. We then went into the Narraganset country, and had good service there ; several were convinced, and the mouths of gainsayers stopped. The Lord's power and love sweetly overshadowed us, and when our service was over, we left with sheaves in our bosoms, and returned to Boston in order to take shipping for Barbadoes. During our stay at Boston we had several meetings : Truth broke through and made way, whereby we were comforted amongst Friends ; praises be to the Lord for ever.

On the 17th of the Sixth Month, 1692, we took shipping at Boston for Barbadoes. After we had been some days at sea, our vessel sprung a leak, and our pumps would not clear her. Upon search, we found the place and got it stopped. In the night following, we met with a great storm, which continued for three days : most of the ship's crew concluded we should be cast away ; but the Lord remembered us in mercy ; for he rebuked the winds and the seas, and filled our souls with the joy of his salvation. The master of the ship and company were great professors, and enemies in their minds to us and our

principles : we had some discourse with them, and the Lord gave us wisdom to stand in our testimony, and keep our peace. The master said, If he was taken by the French, it would be because he had the Quakers on board. But though there was a privateer in the latitude of Barbadoes, we landed safe at Bridgetown in that island, on the 2nd of the Eighth Month.

After the ship had staid a few weeks, they put to sea again ; and she was taken in sight of the island in their return, when no Quakers were on board, and carried to Martinico by the French ; which might plainly convince him of the erroneous judgment he had, relating to the Quakers.

Friends in Barbadoes were glad to see us, and we them. The hand of the Lord was still upon the inhabitants, and many were taken away by death in sore distempers : also the negroes at that time made a plot, intending to kill all the white people in the island : but it being discovered, they were prevented ; although the white people were in great fear. We laboured amongst them in the love of God, and his presence filled our assemblies ; by which the hearts of his people were greatly tendered : many that were strangers to the operation of Truth in their hearts, were reached by the power of God, and we favoured and preserved, both inwardly and outwardly. Friends were in sweet unity and concord, and in much tenderness we parted with them.

On the 19th of the Ninth Month, we took shipping for Antigua, and landed there on the 23rd of the same. We found a few Friends, who were glad to see us : but the inhabitants were very wicked : yet the love of God was largely extended towards them, and we laboured in that ability given unto us ;

which so affected their hearts, that several were reached by the power of God, and received the Truth in the love of it, during our stay there. Having cleared ourselves of the work and service which the Lord required of us, on the 30th of the Tenth Month, we took shipping for Nevis. The next day after we had set forward, we narrowly escaped a French privateer, which was upon the coast and took a ship out of the harbour that night: we could not but admire the Lord's mercy in preserving us from the hands of unreasonable men; and our hearts were truly thankful unto him for his manifold preservations. Friends of the island having intelligence of our coming there, two of them were upon the shore waiting for us, who received us kindly. We staid some time on the island: the Lord's hand had been heavy upon the inhabitants, and had numbered many of them to the grave by a malignant distemper. Our hearts were opened to proclaim the everlasting gospel amongst them, and we warned them *to repent and turn to the Lord whilst his visitation was extended to them*. Many hearts were reached by the power of God, and made to confess unto the Truth; and we found our peace continued and increased with the Lord. And when we were ready to go out of the island, we went to the governor, in order to have our certificate signed by him; but he refused and said, We should not go off the island. So we left him, and told the master of the vessel with whom we had agreed for our passage, who said he would go with us to the governor: a sober man that was a justice, wrote to him also on our behalf. When we appeared again before the governor, he seemed very high; yet after some discourse, said, For the master's and justice's sakes he would sign it; but as for us, we might be spies.—I told

him, We were no spies, but true men, and did not come out of England unknown to the government. Then I showed him a pass which we had from the Secretary of State, wherein the governors of the several islands within the dominions of England, were commanded to let us pass: after which he seemed very kind, and asked, Why we did not show him it before?—We told him, We had not shown it then, but to satisfy him we were true men, and came in the love of God to visit the inhabitants: so we parted very friendly.

We took shipping for Whitehaven, on the 26th of the Twelfth Month, 1692; and as soon as we got on board the vessel, the Lord wonderfully favoured us with his living presence, which caused tears of joy to flow. We landed safe at the Highlands in Scotland, on the 15th of the Second Month, 1693, and from thence travelled into Cumberland, home.

CHAPTER II.

Religious service in various parts of England, Wales, and Ireland
—His Marriage—A Warning proclaimed through many of the streets of London—Visit to some northern and eastern counties—Epistle to the Yearly Meeting in London—His second visit to America—Epistle to Friends in the West Indies.

AFTER staying a few weeks at home, we took our journey to the Yearly Meeting at London. Friends were glad to see us safe returned from America. After the meetings, which were to satisfaction and comfort of Friends, I returned homeward, attended the Yearly Meeting at York, and had good service there ; also visited several other meetings in that county ; so into Cumberland, and laboured, in the ability given, for the stirring up of Friends to their religious duties.

At this time I was engaged with a young woman, belonging to our own meeting at Pardshaw-Cragg, in order for marriage ; but finding I had some further service to perform before the accomplishing of our marriage, I acquainted her therewith : she desired me *to mind the Lord's requirings, and answer them ; and not to be any way straitened on her account.*

On the 8th of the Ninth Month, 1693, I took my journey into Westmoreland ; and had a warning to all who were convinced of the Truth, *to keep their minds more inward with the Lord, that they might know the work of his power to redeem them out of the earth, and draw their affections more heavenward ; and that the younger sort might be weaned from the delights and*

vanities of the world. Then I went to Sedbergh, and through the dales of Yorkshire, to the eastward, and had good service for the Truth; and went forward on my journey, by way of Lincolnshire, up to London. After my service in that city was over, I was drawn into Kent; where I found many that had been convinced by Truth's testimony, when I was in that county in the year 1686: several of them were well grown in the Truth, and I had good service among them. When I was clear of those parts, I travelled into Sussex and Hampshire, and found a concern upon me to visit those who had run out into separation with John Story, at Reading. I went to the separate Meeting, and sat down in silence to wait for the motion of the word of life from heaven. I found them in an exalted mind, above the pure fear of the Lord, which occasioned my soul to mourn: and although one Charles Harris, an opposer of Friends, and leader into separation, charged things on me falsely, which he was not able to prove, yet I cleared myself, and came away in peace of mind, and went to Friends' Meeting. But that being near over, I desired to have another meeting with them in the afternoon, to which many of the Separates came. The high-minded were judged, and the humble revived, by the powerful operation of God's love; and several that had been drawn aside into separation, signified their satisfaction with the meeting.

From thence I travelled into Dorsetshire, and visited Friends and many people; warning them *to repent and turn to the Lord*; exhorting Friends *to be careful, and keep more inward with the Lord, and walk as becomes our holy profession.* When I came near the Island of Portland, where I had formerly been abused, a concern came upon me to visit [the

people there:] several Friends went with me from Weymouth. As we passed through the villages, I exhorted the inhabitants *to repent, and turn unto the Lord, whilst he strove with them.* Some were sober, but others envious; and one man who belonged to the castle, raged much, and bid me depart out of the island. I reproved him for his behaviour. He told me, he would fire all the guns in the castle, and raise the inhabitants to put me out of the island; but we went on until we came to the place where I had been abused before, and had a meeting there, to which many of the inhabitants came. I preached unto them the way of life and salvation, by and through the demonstration and power of God. Whilst I was speaking, the man who belonged to the castle, came with a drawn sword in his hand, and made several passes at me; yet had no power to hurt me. A Friend spoke to him, and told him, he unmanned himself in offering to strike at one that would not strike again. Then he seemed ashamed, and was somewhat sober; and after having cleared myself, I went away in great peace. Thence I travelled through Somersetshire and Bristol, to the Yearly Meeting in Wales, where I met with my dear companion Thomas Wilson; also William Greenup, and Friends from most parts of Wales. We had a sweet, refreshing meeting, the Lord's power was manifested to our great comfort, and the affairs of the church were managed in much love and tenderness. A godly zeal appeared in Friends against every thing that would bring a dishonour upon the holy Truth, and scandal upon our profession: many living testimonies were borne both in the Welch and English tongues: a sweet harmony of love and life attended us, and we were comforted in the Lord and

one another. We had good service at that meeting in helping Friends in discipline ; and the meeting ended in the love of God. Tidings having reached us of the death of John ap John's wife, it was on my mind to attend the burial ; and I went accordingly. Many people of various opinions were there ; and I had a concern to publish the everlasting gospel. The Lord was with me, gave me his word and strength to publish it ; and his power was over all. Then I went to Bala, and had a meeting.

After my service in Wales, I took shipping at Holyhead for Dublin ; where I landed safely, it being near the time of their national Half-year's Meeting. I staid in Dublin till it was over ; then travelled into the north, and warned Friends *to keep more inward with the Lord, and wait to feel the operation of his power to cleanse their minds and hearts.* I travelled hard, and had good service ; the minds of people being much humbled by reason of the great calamity which had happened in that nation, many habitations being left desolate by the late wars. I travelled into Leinster and Munster, and had good service ; many hearts were reached by the power of God, and several convinced of the blessed Truth. Now finding myself clear of the work the Lord called me unto in this nation, I returned to Dublin, it being about the Sixth Month, 1694, and took shipping for Whitehaven. In our voyage, we narrowly escaped a French privateer : after which I landed safe, and travelled home, having had a prosperous journey in the will of God.

During my stay at home, I found freedom in the love of God to accomplish my marriage with the young woman before-mentioned. In great humility and fear, I besought the Lord that he would sanctify

a married state to me, and keep my mind out of the entanglements of the world ; that so I might not be hurt as to my service in the work of the ministry, whereunto I had been called. In a bowed frame of mind, we laid our intentions before Friends ; and proceeded and accomplished the same, according to the good order established amongst us. I saw at that time, something like to creep in amongst us, that would do hurt in the church, namely, the making of great provision at marriage dinners, and inviting many people after the marriage. I felt a stop in my mind, from making more provision than usual ; and in attending thereto, found true peace. We came quietly home ; the Lord owned us with his living presence, and his love overshadowed us ; blessed be his holy name for ever.

In a few weeks after, I had a concern for the city of London, which very much bowed my mind : my wife understanding it, desired me *to answer what I believed to be my duty* ; and said, she *only desired to enjoy what she enjoyed, in God's favour* ; which did greatly add to my comfort. So I took my journey and went to Swarthmore ; and proceeding, visited several meetings on my way. When I was about twenty miles from London, tidings came of the Queen's death ; which put people's minds into some consternation. When I got to London, I had a concern to go to Westminster meeting ; and there being a large gathering of people of several persuasions, I preached the everlasting gospel by and through the demonstration and power of God ; warning them *to repent, turn to the Lord, and consider their latter end* ; shewing them *that the grave equals all, as to the things of this life ; and the great difference between the righteous and the wicked in the other world* ; referring to the

parable of Lazarus and the rich man. Many hearts were reached by the power of God, for it was a day of visitation to them : the meeting ending in a sense of God's love. Then the Lord shewed unto me that I must go through the streets of that great city, and warn the people to repent; which deeply bowed my mind; and I laboured under the weight thereof several days, and would gladly have discovered it to my brethren in the work of the gospel. But the word of the Lord came unto me saying, '*See thou tell it to no man, until thou deliver it as I commanded thee;*' which was to begin at Whitechapel, and go through the main streets of the city, and proclaim this message, *Wo! Wo! Wo! from the Lord, to the crown of pride in this place; for the vials of his wrath will be poured down upon it: therefore I am made to warn all people to repent, that the Lord may shew them mercy.* I went with this message about three miles through the city; and in answering the Lord's requirings, witnessed peace to flow in my soul. His arm was stretched forth for my deliverance, and gave me strength and boldness to bear my testimony among the people: and not a hand was lifted up against me. The consideration of the Lord's dealings deeply bowed my spirit, and made me to say, *he is worthy to be obeyed in all his requirings; for all his paths are paths of peace; blessed be his holy name for ever.*

Being clear of the city, I returned home, and laboured in the work of the gospel in our county: then visited Friends in Northumberland and Durham, and had good service.

Having, for some time, had drawings in my mind to visit Friends again in America, the consideration thereof brought deep exercise upon my spirit, and

often bowed me under a sense of God's love to his heritage and people the world over. I was made willing to leave all, and follow the motion of his eternal Spirit. And when I told my wife of the concern which was laid upon me, she desired me *to mind my freedom in the Lord, and let no worldly affairs hinder me; but answer his requirings*: so I acquainted my brethren therewith, and they had unity with me therein, which was a strength to me.

On the 8th of the Ninth Month, 1695, I took my journey towards London, in order to take shipping for America: John Tiffin, Peter Fearon, and several other Friends accompanied me to Swarthmore: we staid their First day's meeting, and were sweetly comforted together. Next day we attended the burial of Daniel Abraham's younger son: many people of note in the country were there: I declared the way of life and salvation unto the people, and many hearts were reached. The next morning John Tiffin, Peter Fearon, and a young man, went over the sands with me. John Tiffin being ancient, and taken ill upon the sands, with much difficulty got to Lancaster; where we met with John Gratton, and had a comfortable meeting among Friends: after which John Tiffin and the young man returned homewards. Peter Fearon and I went towards London, and had meetings at several places, as at Stockport, Nottingham, and Leicester. The presence of the Lord bore up our spirits, and kept us near him and one another, in our travels for the good of God's heritage.

On the 21st of the Ninth Month, we got to London. The ships not being ready, we staid in the city about three weeks; labouring in the ability given us for the gathering people to God, and settling and building up of those that were already gathered, into the one

Spirit and most holy faith. Then Peter Fearon returning homeward, I accompanied him to Waltham Abbey ; and so to Hertford, where we had a large and heavenly meeting ; then to Hitchin, and from thence into Bedfordshire, and had several meetings there. Our labour was, *to stir up Friends to faithfulness ; and to stand true to God, and their testimony which they were called to bear for the name of Jesus, against the hireling priests, and paying of tithes.* After several meetings in that county, we went to Francis Coalman's house at Woburn, and had an evening meeting there ; directing all *to the light of Christ, which was manifested in their own hearts ;* and several were reached thereby. The day following, Peter Fearon, who accompanied me in pure love, so far on my intended journey, returned home : we having travelled together in true brotherly love, our hearts were knit in the fellowship of the gospel, which made our parting very affecting. I returned towards London, being alone ; but before I had travelled half a mile, the Lord's power overshadowed my soul ; by which my heart was broken and filled with joy and gladness ; which made up all my wants. I got to Edward Chester's at Dunstable that night, and had a meeting there. The next day I went to Hempsted ; from thence to Albans ; and so to London, and staid there several weeks, labouring in the word and doctrine of Christ, and had good service.

On the 8th of the Eleventh Month, 1695, I went down to Gravesend, many Friends accompanying me, and two that were going to America. The next day, we had a meeting on board the ship ; and the day following, at Gravesend. On the First day of the week, we were at Rochester, and had two meetings : many testimonies were borne to shew forth the Lord's

goodness, and to warn people to repent. At one of these meetings, a young man appeared in supplication, whose mouth had not been opened [in the ministry] before : I was glad to see the Lord at work in the hearts of babes, to perfect his own praise. The next day the Friends from London returned home.

On the Third day of the week, being the 13th of the Eleventh Month, we went on board, and the day following set sail : the power of the Lord overshadowed my soul ; and my heart was broken under a sense of his goodness, so that tears of joy flowed from mine eyes, feeling the glory of his presence to be with me. Having got the length of the north buoy, we met with a storm ; therefore came to an anchor and rode two days ; then weighed and sailed to Margate Road, came to, staid next day, and had a meeting on board. The Lord shewed us favour, filled our hearts with joy and gladness, and living praises to his most worthy name. Then we proceeded on our voyage, and got into the Downs : we staid there several weeks for want of a wind, yet were not without service. There being many Friends' ships there, we had several meetings on board, so that many had an opportunity, both priests and others, to hear the gospel preached unto them. Several priests were going over into Maryland, having heard that the government had laid a tax of forty pounds of tobacco on each inhabitant, for an advancement of the priests' wages ; and many were willing to venture their lives for the sake of the benefit. The Lord was with us, gave us wisdom to divide the word aright, both to priests and people, by shewing them the way of Truth, and the difference between those the Lord sends, and those who run and the Lord never sent, but go for their own ends, preach for hire and divine for money.

These priests were silenced, and Truth was exalted over all. Then we went on shore, (I having a great desire to see Friends at Canterbury, where several had been convinced by the preaching of the gospel, when I was there before :) we were gladly received, and the next day had two meetings. When I was preaching, one Cook, a priest, came and staid a considerable time ; the next day he was at the Friend's house where I lodged, and told me, He was satisfied with the doctrine I delivered, and confessed it was the Truth ; after which he asked me, If I understood Greek and Hebrew ?—I told him, No ;—then he asked, How I understood the scriptures, seeing I wanted the original tongues in which they were written ?—I answered, By and through a measure or manifestation of the same power and spirit the holy men of God were enabled to write them, which was before the many languages.—Then he said, He had no immediate impulse to preach :—I asked him, What he was made a minister of ? [and told him] Those who run and the Lord never sent, never "did nor would profit the people ; but the apostle's testimony was, that [he and his fellow-labourers] were "made able ministers, not of the letter, but of the Spirit," and *that* was the true fountain of the ministry ; for they that had not the Spirit of Christ were none of his :—to which he confessed, and said, He hoped they might have it by succession from the apostles, but was not sure of it.—I told him, If I had no immediate impulse of the Spirit to preach the gospel, I would never have left my wife and family to do it ; but there was a necessity laid upon me, and woe was to me if I did it not ; every true minister of Christ knows a necessity so to do :—the priest assented to it, and so we parted. After we had had

several meetings up and down in that county to satisfaction, we returned to the ship ; and had meetings in one ship or other almost every day.

When we had staid near six weeks, the wind coming fair, we weighed and stood away ; but the wind turning, we came to again. Then a great weight came upon me ; and I was very much bowed for many days, under a sense of the power of darkness that was at work. In a week after, there was a plot discovered, of an intention to kill king William ; and [it appeared] that the French intended to invade the land, which occasioned a strict embargo to be laid on all shipping ; so that we were stopped of our voyage near five months. Yet I had no freedom at all to return home, but still waited in expectation of getting away. The Lord was near to me, and often sweetened my exercises ; he bore up my spirit in deep tribulations, and wrought a willingness in me to give up all. I was often concerned to go on shore, and travelled in the county of Kent ; was at many meetings and burials there, and had good service. There I met Thomas Rudd,* who had it

* Thomas Rudd resided at Wharfe, near Settle, in Yorkshire. He was convinced of the Truth as professed by Friends, in the early part of his life, and was soon afterwards called to the work of the ministry. In this vocation he became a faithful and diligent labourer, and travelled in many parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He was especially desirous *that the camp of God might be kept clean; and that spiritual Israel might be beautiful, and in no wise stained with any of the vain customs, fashions, or corrupt spirit of the world.* In his travels, he was often concerned to preach repentance and the fear of God in the streets and market-places of towns and cities, as well as other places of concourse. His service in this line often had a good effect ; and he was, on certain occasions, favoured with remarkable proofs of the presence of that Hand of power which led him forth, sometimes to the convincing of gainsayers. For this his labour

upon him to go through several towns to declare the Truth. At Deal, he was concerned to preach through the streets; and there being a great concourse of people, occasioned by the fleet of ships that lay there, many behaved rudely. I passed through the streets after him, and had dispute with several. One called a justice was very envious, and said, He could find in his heart to put him in prison;—I asked, For what? had he done or spoken any ill? I told him, I was sorry to see any in his place so minded; for men might and did go daily through the streets cursing and swearing, and drunk, yet were taken no notice of to be punished: so he was much ashamed and went away. We had a meeting in the town after that, to which there came a priest that belonged to one of the men-of-war; he seemed to be much concerned. When the meeting was over he spoke to a Friend, and told him he had a desire to speak with me or Thomas Rudd. I met with him upon the sea-shore the same night: he being lately recovered from a fever, was very low in mind, and inquired of me concerning my faith and principles. My heart was lovingly opened to give him an account of my faith, and Truth's principles; for I felt the Lord's love greatly abound to the man: we spent a consider-

of love, he was many times imprisoned, sorely beaten and abused: all which he patiently endured, and like a faithful and valiant soldier, did not turn his back in the day of battle. Near the close of his life, he rejoiced in having been made willing faithfully to perform these arduous services; and said, *'It is enough, it is enough that I feel inward peace. Although I have jeopardied my life many times, in answering what I believed the Lord required of me, it is all too little. O! what an excellent thing it is to be at peace with the Lord and all men.'* He died in the year 1719, in about the seventy-sixth year of his age.—See *Piety Promoted*, part vi.

able time that night in conversation. When I parted with him he was very low, and confessed to the Truth; desiring to have another opportunity with me or some of the Quakers; for he had heard strange things concerning us, but he found they were lies, and we were wronged.

After I had staid several months with the shipping, and thereaway, I had some drawings in my mind to visit the city of London. I went thither along with Jacob Fallowfield, and exhorted Friends *to mind their growth in the love of Truth; for none would be safe but those that knew a growing therein.* We had a very heavenly time, and found the secret power of the Lord at work in the hearts of several young people. Many mouths were opened to declare the Truth; for which I was glad, and to see the Lord's work to prosper. When we were clear, we took leave of Friends and returned back to the ship. As we were on the road, we met several who told us the fleet was sailed; but we found it our place to go forward, though many turned back upon the road that were going down to the fleet. We travelled hard, and got there just as they were weighing anchor; hired a boat and had much to do to get to the ship, she being then under sail. As soon as the master saw a boat following, he laid the ship by, and we got well on board, and had a fair wind to Portsmouth: there we staid above a month, went ashore and had many meetings; also in the Isle of Wight and at Porchester. We had good service; several were convinced of the Truth, and the mouths of gainsayers stopped: we also had meetings on board the ships to satisfaction; and the day before we set sail, we had a public meeting on board the ship we went in: many people came to it out of the

country ; and the Lord, by his power, broke in wonderfully amongst us : I was livingly opened to proclaim the word of life, and many hearts were tendered. Then I had a sight that the time of our departure was near, and that we should get on our long-desired voyage. Next morning the man-of-war put out the signal for sailing ; the ships weighed anchor, and got to Cowes in the Isle of Wight. We went on shore to Newport, and had a glorious meeting there. After the meeting was over, a concern fell upon me to write a few lines to the Yearly Meeting, (it beginning the next day after we were to sail ;) which was as followeth :—

“DEAR FRIENDS, BRETHREN, FATHERS AND ELDERS,

“Whom I love in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is all your strength, power, and wisdom ; I entreat you all, keep to his eternal power and wisdom, in the exercise of all your gifts, in this Yearly Meeting ; that Christ your heavenly head may rule and speak through all, and carry on that glorious work which he hath begun. That in the beholding the prosperity of it, your joy may be full in the Lord, and you be a true strength and comfort one to another, and to the churches of Christ the world over. That as the Lord, by his eternal power, did set up those meetings, and hath honoured them with his presence, he may fill your hearts together, in this your solemn assembly, with the same power, life, and wisdom ; which he will do, if all keep their places in Christ their heavenly head ; where everyone will feel life to spring, and love to abound, and your unity to be increased one with another. So may you return to your respective places as with sheaves in your bosoms ; and God over all will be exalted, and the peace of his church preserved ; which is the sin-

cere breathing of my soul to the Lord for you all ; desiring your prayers to the Lord for me, as mine are for you ; and in true love, I remain your friend and brother, according to measure,

“ JAMES DICKINSON.”

“ *Written on board, near Coves in the Isle of Wight,
the 29th of the Third Month, 1696.*

“ Let this be read in the Yearly Meeting.”

On the 30th of the Third Month, we set sail on our voyage to Virginia, with above a hundred sail in company: the masters of near twenty of them professed the Truth. The Lord was merciful to us, bore up our spirits, and sweetened all our exercises. We had several meetings on board ; and when the weather was fair and calm, we went on board other vessels, had meetings and warned the people to *repent* ; directing them to *the light of Christ, which made manifest their sins, and reproved them for them* ; and reminding them *what great jeopardy they were often in, and how soon the great deep might swallow them up and be their grave* : several were reached by the Truth. About 170 leagues from Virginia, we left the fleet ; and in a week after, got safe into York River, it being on the 23rd of the Fifth Month, 1696 ; but many of the fleet did not get in for above three weeks after, they having met with a violent storm, and lost several of their masts. We went ashore at Edward Thomas's at Queen's Creek. My spirit was deeply bowed under the consideration of the Lord's mercies, and his condescension to us ; for he shewed me, before we lost sight of the English land, that *I should be in my service that day eight*

weeks, in America; and it was so; for we got into Virginia, and had good service for the Truth. The Lord's power assisted us, and opened our hearts and mouths to proclaim the word of life to the people. Then we travelled into New Kent, where I had formerly visited the people with my dear companion, Thomas Wilson: several at that time were convinced of the blessed Truth, and received it in the love of it. And although I met with opposition from the sheriff and some justices, yet the Lord's power wrought effectually, and was over them. After we were gone, they raised a lying report, and told the people we were Jesuits, and were both hanged in Maryland: several believed it was so; but those whose hearts were reached by the power of Truth, did not believe it. We wrote an Epistle* to those parts, from Antigua in the West Indies: when it came to hand, it had a good effect for the confirmation of those who were convinced; and shewed to them who believed the report, that it was false.

Friends in New Kent were glad to see us; and notice being given of our going there, we had a large meeting: the man that had raised the report came in; and when he saw me, he knew me, and was ashamed: the Lord was with us to our great comfort. After we had proclaimed the word of life among them, we travelled to Curles: after the meeting there, we travelled twenty miles to Apomata, and crossed James River. We swam our horses in the night over Apomata River, and went over ourselves in canoes: the secret hand of the Lord protected us both inwardly and outwardly; the sweetness of his love kept us near himself and one

* See page 38.

another ; and in the strength of his power, we were enabled to proclaim the everlasting gospel among the people.

We went to Merchanthope and had a meeting there, to which a great number of people came : the word of life was plentifully declared, and the power of God manifested among them. A man and woman of note were reached, and confessed to the Truth. Near the conclusion of the meeting, the priest's wife, with several of his hearers, came and told me, the priest heard I would gladly speak with him ; and that he was but a little way off, and had a desire to see me :—I replied, I knew no priest there, neither had any business with any ; and if he heard such a report it was false ; but if he wanted any thing with me, I was willing to give him an opportunity at his request. So they sent to the priest, and desired him to send for me ; which he did. I went, and several Friends along with me. The priest and most of his hearers being gathered, he began to reflect against us and our principles ; and said, We denied baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the resurrection of the dead :—I told him, His charges were false ; so put him to prove his assertions ; but he could not.—Then he said among the people, He did not understand our principles, but was willing to know our belief concerning those things :—I told him, He would have manifested more wisdom, if he had known our principles better, before he charged us with so many errors, and could prove none. Then I declared our faith ; showing them we believed the resurrection of the just and unjust ; the just to everlasting life, and the unjust to condemnation : and that we were of the apostles' faith concerning baptism, believing there is one Lord, one faith, and one true and saving

baptism ; which is Christ's, to wit, that of the Holy Ghost and fire.—Then I put him to prove by Scripture, his practice of sprinkling infants ; but he could not.—He then ran out into many words, charging us with more errors :—I told him, he ought to prove those he had charged first, before he advanced others ; for if he did not, I thought no wise man would believe him :—but he continued railing against us, and said that visions and revelations were now ceased, and no such thing to be known in these days.—Then I desired time to reply ; and shewed by scripture, that visions and revelations were not ceased, and the dismal state of those that knew them not ; for without them there was no true knowledge of God ; according to Christ's own words, “No man knoweth the Son, but the Father ; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” So they that deny revelation, are without the knowledge of God ; for where there is no revelation, the people perish ; and Elihu said, “there is a spirit in man ; and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”—I desired the people to consider what state *they* were in who knew no revelation, and denied that any such thing could be known, as their teacher had done ; “for if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Then I directed all to *the light of Christ, which would give them the knowledge of God, whom to know is life eternal, according to Christ's own doctrine.*—I told the priest, if he would contradict Christ, the prophets, and apostles, and number himself among those who had no vision, he manifested himself to be no better than Eli's sons, who had no open vision ; and those the Lord spoke unto by the mouths of his true prophets, and told them, that night should be

unto them for a vision, and darkness for a divination ; and that the sun should go down over the prophets, and the day should be dark over them. When I had opened these things to the people, I went away ; and afterwards sent several books to be dispersed among the people, in order to shew them our christian principles concerning those things the priest had falsely charged upon us.

Then I, with my companion, travelled down to Chuckatuck, and visited several places there : many people flocked to our meetings, and we were livingly opened in doctrine by the power of the word of life, which did plentifully flow to the confirming of God's heritage ; and many hearts were reached thereby. We laboured to stir up Friends to *faithfulness in their testimonies against those things which were evil ; and to keep to the cross of Christ, that so they might be crucified to the world, and the world to them ;* declaring in all plainness, *that a profession of the Truth would stand them in no stead, except they lived in the life thereof, and waited to feel the power of Christ working in them to the changing of their hearts ; and knew him to be a mediator and interceder for them to the Father, and their faith strengthened and confirmed daily ; and thereby came to live to God, and knew the evidence of his Spirit to bear witness with their spirits that they were his children ; and as such, kept in subjection to him : so would his love fill their hearts, and bring them under a living concern for his Truth, and make them zealous for it in their generation ; and good patterns to their offspring, and those that might be seeking the Lord, who were yet strangers to him.*

After we had cleared ourselves in those parts, we got a shallop and went over Chesapeak Bay to Accomack, not without some difficulty. The Lord's love

was great to us, and his power manifested for our deliverance ; blessed be his holy name for ever. We visited Friends on the eastern shore, and had good service. At one place, there came a great many Indians to a Friend's house where I was ; one of them could speak very good English. I had some discourse with him about God, Christ, and religion : I asked him, if he believed there was a God ?—He said, Yes, and that all the Indians believed so too ; but he was a Protestant, and lived amongst the English.—I asked him, If he knew God ?—He answered, No :—Then I told him, I would inform him how he might know the great God that made all things :—he said, He would willingly learn that.—I asked, If he did not find something, when he told a lie, swore, or wronged any, that let him see he should not do so ?—Then he laid his hand upon his breast, with very much seriousness, and said, Yes, he knew it very well ;—I told him, *The great God, that made the Indians, and all things, was a spirit and a great light ; and appeared in the Indians' hearts in order to teach them to be good, and forsake evil ; and if he did but mind that, it would give him the knowledge of God ; for it was the appearance of the great God which shewed him his thoughts.*—He replied, He did not know that before, but would mind it for the time to come. Then he asked me, What made the Englishman swear, that knew God was so near ?—I told him, It was the devil which made both the Englishman and Indian bad.—He said, He never swore before he learned to speak English, for they had no swearing in their language ; but so soon as they could speak English, they learned to swear ; but if he had more of my company, I would teach him better ; and wished he was a Quaker, then he would not swear. After-

wards I visited their king, who was a very solid man : he would not be satisfied until I sat down at his right hand. I had some discourse with him about religion : he was very willing to hear me, and shewed what respect he could ; and offered me such entertainment as his house afforded, which was a cup of water. When I was about to go away, he signified his satisfaction, being well pleased with my visit.

Then I visited several meetings in Chester county, where many who had run out with George Keith into separation, came. I was enabled to open the principles of Truth, and vindicate our ancient testimony concerning our faith in Jesus Christ ; declaring to them *that we believed in him as being the only begotten Son of God ; who in the fulness of time, took flesh, became perfect man, according to the flesh ; descended and came of the seed of Abraham and David, but was miraculously conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary ; yet powerfully owned to be the Son of God, according to the spirit of sanctification, by the resurrection from the dead : and that as man, Christ died for our sins, rose again, and was received up into glory in the heavens ; having fulfilled the law and the prophets, and put an end to the first priesthood, is a priest for ever, not after the order of Aaron, but of Melchisedec ; and ever lives to make intercession to his Father, not for our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world :* so declared our faith to be firm in Christ our heavenly Head ; and that many had suffered deeply, because they durst not break his commands. The Lord's power and presence was witnessed in our assemblies ; and our hearts were bowed, and filled with praises to his worthy name. Several of them who had run out with George Keith, were

reached by the Lord's power ; and being prevailed upon by his love, confessed to the Truth, and said it was sound doctrine. Those who were lifted up in their imaginations, came flatteringly to me, and told me, ' They were glad I was so sound in the faith ; for what I had declared, a great many had denied : '—I bid them name one ; but they could not. So being silent, I told them ' I had had the opportunity of seeing most of the people called Quakers in the world, and never yet met with one, that was owned by them, that denied it ; and I knew it was the faith of the Quakers the world over : and that George Keith, and those who were gone into separation with him, had given way to a lying spirit, and falsely declared to the world we denied the man Christ Jesus : and except they did repent, they would wither, die, and come to nothing ; for the charge against us was false.'—Some of them replied, I would never see that day :—I told them, ' I had seen it in the light of the Lord, at their first running out, and was made to warn them of it : ' so we parted.

I went to Haverfordwest, where the Welsh people dwelt, and found a tender-hearted people : several Friends from Philadelphia met me there ; and the Lord's power comforted our hearts, and filled them with joy and gladness. Afterwards we went to the city, where I staid some time, and found Friends alive to God, and in sweet unity one with another ; but several of those who had run out into separation were restless, tossed to and fro, unstable as water, being gone from Christ, the true fountain of light and life, into imaginations ; so were stumbling, and falling, and getting themselves dipped in water. I could not but mourn for them, being sensible of their great loss ; seeing them to be in an exalted

mind, vainly lifted up above the simplicity of the Truth in the conceit of their high attainments. Several Friends visited them in love ; but they reviled them, and rejected the Lord's mercies. I found the Lord's power and presence to be greatly manifested amongst Friends in that place.

From thence I went to German-town, and had a meeting, to which many of the Separates came ; several of whom had been dipped in water. After the meeting, they began to cavil ; but the Lord's power came over them, which chained them down. Then I travelled into the county of Bucks, and declared the way of life and salvation unto the people. Thence to the Yearly Meeting at Burlington : many Friends from East and West Jersey, and Pennsylvania, were there. Friends in the ministry had a meeting together, wherein the Lord's power overshadowed us, causing our cups to overflow : we were engaged to encourage one another to *faithfulness to Him who had called us with such a high and honourable calling*. The Yearly Meeting was large ; the Lord's power wonderfully broke in upon us, so that many living testimonies were borne from the motion of the spirit of Truth, and hearts filled with praises to the dreadful name of the Lord. The meeting lasted four days, and Friends were kept in the peaceable spirit of Christ : the affairs of the church were sweetly carried on, and managed in God's fear and wisdom, in which we were a true strength one to another. Although several of the Separates came, and made a jumble and disturbance when we were performing our religious worship to Almighty God, yet Friends kept their places, and went on in their testimonies ; and the Lord's power came over all. Some of the Separates were so wicked, that they uttered many blasphemous words ; and while I

was declaring the way of life and salvation, directing all to the light of Christ Jesus, they lifted up their voices till their faces turned black ; and told me, The light I spoke of was nothing but an idol, and a frozen light ; with many more such like absurd expressions. But I told them, *It was no other but Christ Jesus the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, as John declared,—John i. 9 ; and it was the testimony God had given us to bear ; and the business we were sent about was, to labour to turn people's minds from darkness to this true light, and from Satan's power to the power of God ; that people might come to receive remission of sins by faith in Christ Jesus ; to which light, all the nations of them that are saved must turn and walk in : it was the apostle's treasure, and so it is every true believer's now.* When they had wearied themselves, they went away ; after which we had a heavenly conclusion, and parted in peace.

Then finding drawings in my mind to go to the Yearly Meeting in Maryland, I went, in company with several Friends. We travelled hard, and reached the meeting the day it began, visiting meetings as we went. There being a great fleet of ships lying not far distant, abundance of people came to the meeting, both merchants, captains of vessels, and many others of divers ranks and persuasions. The merchants and captains were very sober ; but several others behaved very rudely, talking, and smoking tobacco : the power of Truth and the testimony thereof, reached them ; so that those rude people were much ashamed of their behaviour, and crowded into the meeting-house till it was filled : and the Lord caused his everlasting gospel to be proclaimed in the demonstration of his power and wisdom, which did plentifully flow

amongst us ; and we witnessed that Scripture to be fulfilled ; “ He maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” The hearts of the faithful were made truly glad ; and dread and terror took hold of the rebellious. It proved a day of visitation to many ; for the Lord made his instruments as clouds full of rain, and caused them to empty themselves amongst his heritage. The affairs of the church were managed in God’s fear and wisdom : nothing appeared but love and unity among Friends. The meeting held four days ; and ended with praises and thanksgiving unto the God and Father of all our mercies, who, with his dear Son, is worthy thereof.

After the meeting, we returned to Chester and the head of Chesapeak bay, and visited Friends and others. We found great openness in the hearts of many to receive Truth’s testimony ; and several were tendered and reached thereby. Then we travelled into Pennsylvania, and had several meetings in the lower counties, travelling very hard ; for I was pressed in spirit to go to the Yearly Meeting at Shrewsbury, having several meetings to visit as I went. When I was at Philadelphia, a great exercise fell upon me for the West India islands, viz. Barbadoes, Antigua, Nevis, and Jamaica; under which I travailed in free resignation of mind to answer the will of God : for I had a sense of an evil spirit which was at work in those western isles, in order to hurt God’s heritage, by drawing them from the power of Christ. As I kept the word of patience, and my mind single to the Lord, waiting to know his mind therein, it came upon me to write ; and early in the morning I wrote an Epistle, and caused several copies to be taken and sent to the said islands, whereby I got ease of mind. The Epistle is as follows :

“DEAR FRIENDS,

“I am moved of the Lord, in the motion of life, to send you these following lines ; being deeply bound under the sense of the love of God in visiting us, and making his way and Truth known to us, and in gathering us to be a people that were no people, and bringing of us to worship him, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth ; where we have known the streams of love and life to run, in which our souls have found true pleasure. As our minds came to be staid upon the Lord, our peace flowed, and our love increased to him and to one another ; which brought us to be of one mind, and often filled our hearts with praises to his most worthy name.

“Now, Friends, my spirit is engaged in the motion of life, to caution, warn, and charge you all to keep to God’s power that first gathered you ; that by it you may be preserved low in his fear, with your minds purely staid in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ ; unto which you have been turned, and by which you have come to the knowledge of God, and Jesus Christ his Son, whom to know is life eternal. Now, as you have received the Lord Jesus Christ, be careful to walk in him ; in whom you have life, peace, and salvation, and from whom you are to receive daily nourishment to your souls ; and witness the cross of Christ, which is the power of God, to crucify you to the world and the world unto you ; so that thereby you may escape the corruptions that are in the world through lust, and be made partakers of his divine nature. By the virtue thereof you will be made to bear witness against the world, and all its ways, customs, fashions, notions, and false ways of worship that are therein ; and stand up for your holy

way, Christ Jesus, the true light, that “enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world.” And as in him you all walk, and know the virtue of his power every day to strengthen you, in the dominion of his life, power, and wisdom, you will stand in your testimonies against all that rise up against him ; and be of those that are following the Lamb through many tribulations ; and live to God over all, to his glory and your comfort.

“ Now, as it was God’s power that gathered you, so it is the devil’s work to scatter you, and drive you from the true foundation, Christ Jesus the true light. I say, all walk in him, and wait in his light, where you will have the great mystery of godliness more and more revealed unto you ; and so see over and through the mystery of iniquity and the devices of Satan, his sly insinuations, lies and prevarications, which he is possessing many with ; making them instruments in his hand to trouble the churches of Christ, and to make rents and schisms therein ; dividing in Jacob, and scattering in Israel. Therefore watch against the enemy’s working in the mystery, though with never so large pretences and fair shews : his work is still to draw away the mind from the pure conduct of the spirit of Truth, into high conceits and imaginations, and so into separation from God and his people. I warn you all to watch and keep low, that the enemy may not gain ground upon you, nor draw your minds from the simplicity of the Truth ; but that you may feel the Lord daily to break your hearts, and tender your spirits, and give you a clear discerning between that which serveth God and that which serveth him not, both in yourselves and others. So will you have a sense and feeling beyond words ; and never be deceived by the

fair words or pharisaical carriage of any whose spirits are wrong, and are gone into contention and strife ; making rents and divisions in the church : such labour to gather to themselves and not to Christ. Experience hath shewed the work of that Spirit in former ages, (as also in this age) and what hath been the end of those that have been led by it. Therefore all keep to the Lord's power, and thereby you will be preserved out of the snares of the enemy, and firm in your testimony against that spirit of strife and contention : touch not with it, but live over it ; for all that join with it, will wither and die, and come to nought. It is the word of the Lord God as a warning to you all, to watch against, and feed it with judgment wherever it appears. Though it may appear as Saul did, to bless the true prophet of the Lord, yet it is that which is gone into rebellion against God, and doth not obey him. And though those who are gone into this spirit, may strive to be honoured before the people, (as Saul did,) and may be rending and tearing to obtain [honour], yet the Lord will rend the kingdom out of the hands of those that join with it, although they may have known something of the anointing oil, and have been anointed therewith. It is those that keep in obedience to Christ, that shall be made partakers of the benefits of his obedience to his Father ; for it is said of him, " He became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him." So mind your obedience unto him ; and then you will all know of his doctrine, which drops as the dew upon his tender heritage ; blessed be his name for ever.

" Now, " Seeing it is a righteous thing with God," saith the apostle, 2 Thessalonians i. 6—8, " to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you : and

to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ :” therefore mind your rest in Christ, and keep in it ; and obey his gospel, and keep to his doctrine, which is, “ Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another ;” also the apostle saith, “ If any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of Christ.” So all keep to the eternal power of God, and you will be kept out of evil by it. In the pure love of Christ my soul salutes you all ; desiring grace, mercy, and peace, may be multiplied amongst you, and all the churches of Christ the whole world over : letting you know that my dear companion Thomas Wilson was well the last time I heard from him. We have had little rest since we were with you, but have been labouring in the work of the gospel. His dear love was to you all, and so doth mine remain ; and I send this, as a token thereof, in obedience to the Lord ; in whom I remain your friend and brother in tribulations and patience,

“ JAMES DICKINSON.”

“ *Philadelphia, the 17th of
the Eighth Month, 1696.*”

Let copies of this be sent to Antigua, Nevis, and Jamaica, to be read in their meetings.

I proceeded into West Jersey, and had several meetings ; then travelled, in company with several Friends, through the woods to East Jersey, to the Yearly Meeting at Shrewsbury, which began the 24th of the Eighth Month and held four days. We laboured *to stir up Friends to faithfulness* ; directing

all to Christ the true foundation ; that thereby they might know his power to subject their spirits, and lead them into all Truth, both in doctrine and discipline. The Lord eminently appeared amongst us to our comfort, and we were sweetly refreshed together in the enjoyment of his love.

After the meeting, several Friends went with me towards New York. We crossed Amboy Ferry in two canoes, which the watermen lashed together to carry us and our horses over, and staid at Amboy that night. Next day we went to Elizabeth Town, took boat for New York, and were all night upon the water, exposed to wind and storms : it rained all night, and we had no shelter ; for the boat was filled with wood, and we sat upon it. About break of day, we got to New York, where we staid a little ; then passed over in a canoe to Long Island, and travelled up and down in that island, labouring in the work of the gospel ; and had good service for the Truth. Several were convinced, particularly a captain in the army and a justice of the peace, who were afterwards called before the governor of New York : and because they could neither swear nor fight any longer, they laid down their commissions, having received the Truth in the love of it ; which was cause of gladness to us ; for we had no greater joy than to behold the Lord's work to prosper in the hearts of the children of men.

Being clear of Long Island, we returned to New York, where we had a large meeting ; in which we opened the principles of Truth, by and through the demonstration and power of God, and wiped off the reproaches which George Keith, and those who ran out with him, had cast upon us. Many hearts were deeply affected and tendered, both among the Dutch

and English ; and the Lord's power was over all. Near the conclusion of the meeting, William Bradford, (who had printed several books which George Keith and others wrote against Friends), began to make disturbance ; and flatteringly said, He was glad to hear the doctrine which was delivered that day : notwithstanding he would vindicate what they had written and printed. I saw if we entered into debate, it would draw people's minds out, which were measurably turned to the Lord's power, and reached thereby : then it was upon me to supplicate the Lord in prayer. After I had done, a Friend stood up, and declared among the people, That George Keith, and those who had written and accused us with denying the manhood of Christ, had wronged themselves and us too ; for he knew not one that was a Quaker, that ever denied the manhood of Christ ; and farther said, '*We believe there is one Mediator between God and man, even the man Christ Jesus ; and by no other name but that of Jesus, we expect salvation ; and by his Spirit we must be adopted, and made heirs of that peace and rest he hath purchased for us with the price of his precious blood ; by which we shall be changed if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, wherein our true fellowship doth consist.*' People seemed generally dissatisfied with Bradford's appearance in so disturbing a manner ; for the Lord's power was over every unclean spirit, and the testimony of Truth exalted over all : so the meeting ended.

Having appointed a meeting at Chester next day, we sailed several miles in canoes, and through much difficulty got to the meeting, which was to satisfaction. Then we returned to Long Island, and in our passage over, the wind rose, and water came into the canoes : we sat deep in it, for none durst move to

cast it forth for fear of oversetting, although it was frost and very cold weather : yet after much difficulty and fatigue we got safe to land. Being clear of those parts, we returned to New York, took boat and passed over to East Jersey : then travelled through the woods to West Jersey, so to Burlington and Philadelphia ; and had good service for the Truth. It being frost and a great snow, it was very tedious travelling ; yet the Lord made way for us both inwardly and outwardly, and made hard things easy to us. We visited the sick and aged in our travels, and sympathised with them in their afflictions : the Lord's power reached unto them and helped them, and they were comforted in their exercises. We travelled through the woods to Salem, (many Friends accompanying us,) and had several meetings thereabouts. At Cohansey, abundance of professors came to the meeting ; the gospel was preached to them, and many were deeply affected : we were concerned to vindicate and lay open our principles, for the clearing of the reproaches cast upon them by those who were gone out from us. The Lord's power came over all, and we returned in great peace ; witnessing that saying to be fulfilled, " Great peace have they which love thy law."—Psal. cxix. 165. We had several meetings in Philadelphia ; and that ranting spirit which laboured to lay waste, and hinder the growth and prosperity of the Truth, was chained down by the power of God ; our assemblies were filled with his love, and our hearts drawn near him. After the meetings, several of those who had gone out from us, began to cavil ; and would have made me an offender for a word, which, they said, I had spoken. But I saw their life was in jangling, and remembered our blessed Lord and

Master's example, who, when he was accused, answered not a word ; having regard to the honour of God, not to make our solemn assemblies a place of contention : for I had seen their behaviour at a meeting before, several of them speaking at once. So I took little notice of them, knowing that God is not the author of confusion, but of peace and love. In the sense of his love we travelled and laboured to turn people's minds to Christ the true Rock and Foundation, and to keep our consciences pure from the blood of all men. The Lord was with us, and fitted us for our service every day ; and the angel of his presence attended his people, and drew them near to himself and one another ; in which nearness our hearts were bound up with them. For though the power of darkness had been greatly at work to scatter and lay waste God's heritage in those parts ; and had prevailed upon some, who had not been careful to watch in the light of Christ Jesus, but were drawn from the simplicity of the gospel into strife and contention, and a disposition to accuse their brethren ; yet we found the Lord's power to be much at work in settling and establishing those who kept their minds close to him ; so that many came to witness that saying fulfilled, " Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is staid on thee, because he trusteth in thee."—Isa. xxvi. 3. For we found them, to our great comfort, in a growing condition, and in unity one with another.

Being clear of those parts, we took our journey towards Maryland, having several meetings in our way. At Derby, we met with Henry Payton and his sister,* who were come out of England on Truth's

* Henry Payton resided at Dudley, in Worcestershire. His daughter, Catherine Phillips, in an account of him prefixed to her

service : they went back with us to several meetings, and the glory of the Lord overshadowed us to our comfort. At Concord, where was held the last meeting we had in the province of Pennsylvania, the Lord crowned our assembly, and filled our hearts with his love ; so that tears of joy flowed from most of us, and we were enabled to offer up praises unto the God and Father of all our mercies.

Journal says ; “ He was called into the work of the ministry about the eighteenth year of his age ; and when young, travelled much in the service of Truth in divers parts of this nation, Ireland and Scotland, as also the American colonies. His ministry was lively and clear ; and his care not to exceed the openings of Truth therein, apparent. His deportment was grave, his conduct clean and steady, and his charity, in proportion to his circumstances, diffusive. He was an affectionate husband, a tender father and kind master ; serviceable amongst his neighbours, and beloved and respected by them. He died in the year 1746, aged nearly 75 years.”

His sister, “ Sarah Payton, was born at Dudley [aforesaid,] and received a gift in the ministry when about twenty-one years of age ; in the exercise of which, she laboured not only at home and in Ireland, but also in America, previous to her marriage with Samuel Baker, an honest Friend of Dublin. She resided in that city for the most part of the remainder of her life ; and was very serviceable to Truth and Friends in many respects ; being a diligent labourer and fellow-helper with her brethren in the gospel : and in the authority of Christ Jesus did freely and frequently, in larger and lesser assemblies, preach and teach the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the redemption that is in his Son, Christ Jesus. She had also good service in women’s meetings, being a diligent follower of good works, in relieving the poor and visiting the sick and afflicted in body or mind. When outward strength declined, her inward strength was renewed ; her lamp being trimmed, did burn clearly, through the supply of heavenly oil, to the conclusion of her time ; and at her departure she had the comfort of an evidence of peace with the Lord, and that a crown of righteousness was laid up for her. She died in the year 1713.”—*Rutty’s History of Friends in Ireland.*

After the meeting, we parted with them in much bowed-downness of spirit; under a sense of the Lord's goodness, and went on our journey towards Maryland: we travelled very hard for three days, before we got among Friends where our service lay. The ground was covered so thick with snow, that few had ever seen the like in those parts; which made our travels more difficult. Then we proceeded to Choptank, and visited Friends on the eastern shore; afterwards crossed Chesapeak-bay to the western shore, where we had several comfortable meetings.

When we were clear of those parts, it was upon us to go to Virginia and Carolina. A master of a ship that lay in Patuxent river took his boat and put us over the river, travelled along with us to Potomack, and went over that river, which was nine miles across. It was night, and we all strangers to the place: seeing a boat at a distance, we came up with her, and got her to pilot us to a plantation on the shore, where was a captain's house: they lived very poorly, having nothing to eat or drink but pone* and water; but they were willing to entertain us with such as they had. Next morning, we got horses, and hired a guide to Rappahannock river, where many ships lay; hoping to get over in some of their boats: but there came on such a strong north-wester that the people were afraid it would have blown down their houses; insomuch that we were forced to run out into the storm, which was very violent. After it was a little abated, it froze so hard that we could not get over the river for a whole week.

During our stay, we had disputes with several, and opened the principles of Truth to them. One Major

* Probably some preparation of Indian corn.—ED.

Taylor confessed to the Truth, and said, If the Quakers' principles were such as we declared, he was a Quaker in judgment ; but desired to have more time with me, to be informed why we left the Church of England.—I told him, The Church of England had the form of godliness, but denied the power ; and from such the apostle advised to turn away : and they maintained tithes, which belonged to the Levitical priesthood, which we believe Christ came to put an end to : and their ministers preach for hire, and divine for money ; cry peace to the people while they put into their mouths, but when they withhold, prepare war against them : they indeed profess good things, but do not practice them, and say and do not ; unto such Christ cried, “ Wo ! ”—He answered, What I said was true ; but said, ‘ Our principles are good ; though it is a great shame to us that our ministers are so wicked.’—I told him, ‘ We must judge of the tree by its fruit, according to Christ’s own doctrine : ’—he said, It was very true ; and seemed fully satisfied concerning our principles.

As soon as we could, we passed over the river, and travelled through the woods to Mattapony, where a friendly man dwelt, with whom we staid two days, and had a meeting at his house : many had the opportunity of hearing the gospel preached, and God’s universal love proclaimed, which was glad tidings to their poor souls : many hearts were deeply affected by the Lord’s power, and ours were bowed under a sense of his goodness to the children of men. After that meeting, several desired to have another ; but we being pretty much pressed in spirit to visit some other parts of Virginia, and Carolina, proceeded on our journey. The next day we heard of one John Carver, who made a profession of Truth, but

had seldom been at any of our meetings : we travelled to his house, as it was not above ten miles out of our way, and found the man much in imaginations, conceits, and notions : we were much burthened in our minds with him.

Next day we travelled towards Ware river, where the ship lay, in which we intended to take our passage for England : the day following we got on board, and staid some days. The people thereabouts being very desirous of having a meeting, one Sampson Dorill, a lawyer, gave us liberty to have one at his house. Abundance of people came, it being the first Quakers' meeting that had been in those parts : the Lord appeared in his love, and touched our tongues as with a live coal from his heavenly altar, and loosed them to declare of his mercies to those that would return at the reproofs of wisdom, and lay hold of the day of their visitation. Many hearts were reached, and several desired we would stay there and have more meetings : but having some further service to perform in visiting Friends, we took our journey towards Carolina ; and got two negroes to carry us over York river in a small boat. The wind arose, so that we could not get the negroes to set us to the place intended ; but they put us ashore at the first land they could get. As it was near night and there was hard frost and snow, we travelled almost till midnight before we got to a plantation ; having our saddles and bags to carry. Next morning we got to Edward Thomas's and had a meeting ; then crossed James river, travelled to Pagan's Creek and Chuckatuck, and visited meetings as we went : so through the wilderness to Carolina, and there met with governor Archdale, who travelled through Carolina with us. We had good service in that

wilderness country, and found a tender people who were glad to be visited. Being clear, we returned in peace, and attended the shipping for England. The fleet staying some time, we visited several places as we found an openness in people's hearts to receive the testimony of Truth ; directing them to *Christ, the true foundation*. The Lord was effectually with us, to our great comfort ; and having in ourselves the answer of well done, our souls were filled with praises to his most holy name, who is God, blessed for ever.

On the 7th of the Third Month, 1697, we set sail from the Capes of Virginia, being about one hundred and thirty sail in company. In the ship that I came in, there were several Friends ; one, whose name was Hugh Robert, had the testimony of Truth to declare, and was coming to visit Friends in England : we had three meetings every week during our voyage. After we had been a week at sea, we met with a great storm, and were in danger to have run down one another. The man-of-war lay by, and caused all the fleet to lay to, under their mainsails, all night. There came a ship which had like to have run foul of us ; but we backed our mainsail and got clear. The storm was so violent that it split our mainsail ; and before we could get the yard lowered, it had like to have been carried away : the ship also sprung a leak, so that we were forced to keep the pumps going day and night for two weeks. When the storm was over, and the sea calm, we stitched an old sail full of oakum, let it down under the ship, and undergirt her ; and after some time, the leak stopped. When the ship came to be searched, it was found to be an auger hole half open, and the other filled with something that had got into it. After five weeks' sail we met with a

vessel that had been taken by the French : she gave us an account that there was a French fleet out at sea, waiting for us ; so we kept to the southward, and almost run out our longitude before we got into our latitude, and escaped them. When we had been six weeks at sea, we made the isles of Scilly : the day after which, several great ships of war met us, in order to convoy us up to London ; but the wind being contrary, we were forced into Plymouth, and landed there on the 22nd of the Fourth Month : having had many refreshing seasons in the love of God, when on the deep ocean. The consideration of the Lord's dealings with us, in protecting us both inwardly and outwardly, bowed my mind in true thankfulness, and made me say, that *he was worthy to be followed and obeyed, in all his requirings.*

The day after we landed, we had a large and comfortable meeting at Plymouth. The next day, we took our journey towards Exeter, and were at their First day's meeting. From thence we travelled to Bristol, where I was taken very ill : but in a week's time recovered, and had two meetings there ; after which I took my journey homeward, William Penn and several other Friends accompanying me some miles. I travelled hard, got well home, and found my wife and family well ; which deeply bowed my spirit before the Lord, under the consideration of his tender dealings with me every way, and giving me my life for a prey. Though one may go forth weeping, bearing precious seed, I knew a returning as with sheaves in my bosom ; blessed be the Lord, who is the Preserver of all those that put their trust in him.

CHAPTER III.

Visit to Ireland—Epistle to Friends in America—Visits to Scotland, and some parts of England—His Sickness—Further religious service in England, Scotland, and Ireland—His third visit to America—Religious engagements in various parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland—His last Illness and Death.

IN the year 1698, a concern was upon me to visit Friends in Ireland. I took shipping on the 5th of the Ninth Month ; but meeting with a contrary wind, was put into Ramsey Bay, in the Isle of Man, where we staid some days ; then weighed anchor and got to Castletown, went on shore, and found the people very wicked ; they would scarce lodge us for our money, because we were Quakers. The next day we sailed to Dublin, and had three meetings there. Then I took my journey along with Thomas Wilkinson*

* " Thomas Wilkinson resided at Beckfoot, in Cumberland. He descended of honest parents, though not of our profession ; who dying when he was young, he was educated by a relation in the way of the Church of England [so called.] He joined himself with Friends in his youth, and some time after received a gift in the ministry. In that service, when but young, he travelled through most parts of England and Wales ; and several times visited Friends in Scotland and Ireland. His ministry was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power ; and he was endued with an excellent gift of prayer. As he bore a faithful testimony in word and doctrine, his conversation was agreeable thereto. He was also zealous in his testimony against tithes : for non-payment of a small modus, he was prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer, and suffered imprisonment sixteen years : which suffering he bore without murmuring ; and often said, *He never enjoyed more of the Lord's favour than in his confinement.* In his last illness he

into the north, having meetings at places where none had been before ; to which abundance of people came, both English and Irish : we laboured in the love of God among them. At one meeting there came two priests, who appeared at first to be very light and airy ; but the Lord's power reached their hearts, and we heard they gave a good account of the meeting. We had a meeting at Lurgan, where there was a marriage, to which many people came to see the accomplishment thereof. The gospel of life and salvation was freely preached unto them : some were reached, and turned to Christ, the true light and leader of his children. I was much concerned for a people that knew not the Lord, *that they might be gathered unto him, and know salvation.* We travelled very hard, and had meetings every day for twenty-eight days together ; visiting people in many places where no Friends dwelt ; and had good service, particularly in the county of Derry. We had a meeting at a place called Articelly, to which abundance of people came, many of whom were Presbyterians ; and they fenced against the testimony that was borne all they could : but the testimony ran so clear, that they were forced to confess to the Truth ; for our labour was to *turn all to God's teaching, and to Christ the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.* After the meeting we went to Newtown-Limavady, and lodged at an inn : the people were very hard and dark as to true religion, being puffed up with airy notions, so that we found little place there. Then we travelled to Dungivin, lodged at an inn, and got a

frequently signified *that nothing stood in his way, and that he had the full evidence of joy and peace.* He died in the year 1731, aged upwards of 78, having been a minister about 50 years.—*Testimony of Cumberland Quarterly Meeting.*

house to have a meeting in the next day : but in the morning there was a paper put upon the door, and all people forbidden thereby to go into that house, except the King's officers. So we kept the meeting without doors, although it was in the depth of winter ; and the Lord favoured us with his living presence, and enabled us to preach the gospel unto the people. Several were convinced, and many well affected, who said, *Though men envied us, yet the Lord favoured us.*

From thence we travelled towards Londonderry ; lodged at an inn, and had a comfortable meeting that evening. Next day we went into the city in order to have a meeting : many of the magistrates being Presbyterians, were very envious, and threatened to put us in prison ; but we kept our meeting in the love of Christ. The governor, several officers, and soldiers, came to the meeting, shewed kindness towards us, and restrained the rabble. I had to warn the people *to repent of their wickedness, or else the hand of the Lord would be heavy upon them ;* [and further to declare, that] *although many families in that place had wanted bread, yet if they repented not, many houses should have bread, and none of their family be left to eat it.* After I had delivered the message, I was eased of the weight which lay upon me, and went away in peace. We then travelled to a place called Cumber : at an inn there we met with a great many Irish ; one of them was in fetters for stealing ; the power of darkness was great among them. Next day we had a meeting appointed there, and many of those wicked people came, and their priest, they being Papists : the Lord caused his light to shine, and gave us his word and wisdom to divide it ; so that the gospel was freely preached to them, and all directed *to the*

light of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of them was convinced of the Truth, and much broken and tendered by the power of the Lord which overshadowed us. The priest confessed that the doctrine he had heard that day, was true. Then we came back to Toberhead and Charlemont, and from thence to Lugganory : we had several meetings ; abundance of people flocked to them, and we directed all *to the light of Christ Jesus, the Saviour of the world ;* and many confessed to the Truth. Then we came by Melton to Dromore, a place that had not been visited by Friends before, and had a meeting in a large room at an inn : many of the town's people came, and it was a day of God's love to them ; they were mightily affected by the power of Truth, and very much broken and tendered thereby : several acknowledged to the Truth, and some were convinced. After the meeting, we went to Hillsborough, and had a meeting there that evening, to which several people of repute came ; one squire Hill was deeply affected with the testimony of Truth ; in a short time after he died. Then we travelled to Lurgan, to the province meeting ; afterwards into the south and west parts of the nation, where we had service in turning many people unto the Lord. At Cork we met with several brethren in the work of the gospel : our hearts were truly opened one to another, and glad to hear of Truth's prosperity. After we had visited Munster, we returned to the province meeting in Leinster, and visited the counties of Carlow, Wexford, and Wicklow. Then finding my spirit clear, I returned to Dublin, took shipping for Whitehaven, and at the latter end of the Eleventh Month, 1698, I landed safe, and returned home, staid some time, and was very diligent in attending meetings.

[The following *Epistle to Friends in America*, which is not inserted either in the MS. or the former edition of this Journal, is recorded in *Gough's History of Friends*.]

“*Rogerscale, [near Pardshaw,]
27th of First Month, 1699.*

“DEAR FRIENDS,

“In the love of God, my soul dearly salutes you all in the seed of life ; in which we are united the whole world over ; and are bound up in that one eternal Power and Spirit by which we have been gathered to be a people, to appear in the world to make mention of his name, and that in truth and righteousness. All wait low in the depth of humility, daily to feel the operation and opening of his eternal Power upon your spirits ; that by it you may be all guided in true fear and wisdom in all your exercises and services for God, in your several gifts and places that God has committed to your trust and charge : that you all be shewing forth the glory, and power, and wisdom of him that hath called you out of the dark world, and its ways, customs, and fashions, into his marvellous light, to walk therein, and to be faithful witnesses for him ; and that your lights may so shine before men, that they may see your good works, that they may glorify your Father which is in heaven. My spirit and life is often with you, (in my secret retirement unto the Lord,) in those remote parts of the world.

“Oh ! my bowels yearn towards you, night and day, for your growth and prosperity in the Truth ; that you may be kept under the government of Christ ; where his peace will daily rise up in your souls ; which will far transcend all earthly enjoyments, and redeem your affections out of the earth and the

snare and corruptions that are in it, and will draw the affections heavenwards, and to seek those things that are above ; so will the Lord bless you every way, both inwardly and outwardly ; and your table will never become a trap and a snare to you.

“Treasure the advice given of old, “Trust not in uncertain riches, but in the living God ;” and then he will abundantly bless those parts of the world where it is your lot to dwell ; he will be as a wall of fire round about you, and make your enemies to be at peace with you. Keep low, *there* is your safety ; and look not out, but to the Lord, whose eye is watching over you for good : and his hand is full of blessings to be poured down upon you, if you give him not occasion to withhold them from you, by letting your minds wander from him. Therefore let a holy care and zeal be kept in by all, to keep their minds close to the Lord ; so will he bring up a godly concern upon your minds, for the honour of God, and a holy, strict discipline amongst you ; that all that profess the holy Truth, walk as becomes Truth in their life and conversation ; and that those that do not, be dealt with, and if possible be reclaimed ; and if not, to clear the holy Truth of them, and to wipe off the scandal that may be cast upon your holy profession, by their disorderly walkings.

“I do not write these things because you know them not, but to stir up your minds to put them in practice ; and in order thereto, we are in the practice of appointing two or more faithful Friends in every particular meeting, to take inspection into the conversation of Friends, how they walk as becomes Truth ; and these Friends of every meeting, (which we call a preparative meeting, because it fits those that are appointed,) to give a true account to the

Monthly Meeting, that often consists of several, and takes a great deal of work from the Monthly Meeting ; things being done without going thither. We find great benefit in a strict discipline ; and there is a great need of it.

“ I desire you to keep in the unity of the Spirit, which is the bond of peace ; and stir up one another to love and good works ; and that those whom God hath trusted with heavenly gifts, may all improve them to his glory. And stir up one another to visit remote parts that want help ; as Virginia, Carolina, New England, Barbadoes, Jamaica, Antigua, Nevis. And let all be done in the love of God ; so will he bless you with spiritual blessings in his Son Christ Jesus ; in whom I dearly salute you all, letting you know I am well every way. And to God’s eternal arm of power I commit you all, and remain your friend and brother in the holy Truth.

“ JAMES DICKINSON.”

In the forepart of the year 1689, I had drawings in my mind to visit Friends in Scotland, and proceeded on that service in company with Jonathan Burnyeat,* (son of John Burnyeat,) who had the like

* “ Jonathan Burnyeat, son of John and Elizabeth, was born in Dublin on the 4th of the Eleventh Month, 1686 ;” consequently he was little more than *twelve years of age*, when he thus united with James Dickinson in gospel service. John Whiting in his “ *Memoirs*,” towards the close of his account of John Burnyeat, says, “ He left one son, a hopeful young man, behind him.” “ Jonathan Burnyeat died at Graythwaite near Crabtreebeck [in Cumberland,] on the 5th of the Third Month, 1709,” in the twenty-third year of his age. These dates, &c., of his birth and decease, are copied from the *Registers of Pardshaw Monthly Meeting*.

The editor regrets that he has not been able to find further

concern. As he was very young, and had not travelled in Truth's service before, a concern fell upon me for his preservation every way. The Lord was kind to us, and bore up our spirits in all our exercises. My companion was deeply opened into the mysteries of God's kingdom ; and grew in his gift, so as to give counsel to young and old : he was very zealous against deceit and wickedness, both in professor and profane ; and often reproved such. We travelled together through the south and west parts of Scotland, to Douglas, Hamilton, and Glasgow, and had many meetings among the people ; labouring to turn their minds to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world ; warning all *who professed the light to be their way, to be careful to walk therein, that they might know their communion to increase with the Lord, their fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ to cleanse them from all unrighteousness.* Then we travelled down into the north, and had many precious meetings. From thence we returned to the Yearly Meeting at Edinburgh, where we met with many brethren. Abundance of people came to the meeting, who were very rude and wicked, and laboured to disturb us ; but the testimony of Truth coming over all, some among them were troubled, and chained down by the power of God. We were deeply

particulars respecting this extraordinary youth : when his age is considered, in connection with what is here said of him by J. D. (see also p. 193) the reader can scarcely fail to be struck with so remarkable an instance of early dedication ; or (whilst contemplating the condescension of the great Head of the church, in committing a dispensation of the gospel to one of so tender an age,) to regard it as an occasion which calls forth the reverent acknowledgment, " Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise."

bowed under a sense of the Lord's favour to us : yet under great sorrow to see the wickedness of the people. A concern came upon Jonathan Burnyeat to write a warning to the inhabitants of that place, which was afterwards put in print to answer its service. Then we travelled to Kelso, and visited Friends there ; so to Berwick-upon-Tweed ; from thence to Northumberland, and had meetings at several places : many hearts were reached by the power of Truth. Being clear, we returned home, and witnessed peace to flow in our souls.

Afterwards, finding drawings in my mind to visit several parts of England, I began my journey on the 17th of the Eighth Month, 1699, and visited Friends in Westmoreland and Yorkshire. I was engaged to warn all in the love of Christ, *to prepare for their latter end, and to know their peace made with the Lord ; for a day of trial was coming, wherein all would stand in need of it.* I travelled through Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, to Huntingdonshire, where I met with great exercise with some apostates who had run out with George Keith. They laboured to lay waste the testimony of Truth ; but the Lord manifested his power, and stood by those who were true to him, stopped the mouths of gainsayers, and confounded them. From thence I went to the Isle of Ely, and Norfolk, and laboured in the work of the ministry for the gathering of people to Christ, that they might know him to be their Teacher ; and for the settling of those who were gathered ; stirring up all to their duties to God and one another. I then returned back to Huntingdon Quarterly Meeting ; and was engaged to encourage Friends *to come up in their several gifts and services ; and to be faithful unto the testimony God had given them to bear, and to*

stand against every thing that would oppose it. There appeared at that meeting, some very malicious, who were bent to render Friends and their books odious ; but they were frustrated and confounded by the Lord's power, which did eminently break forth amongst us, whereby the hearts of the faithful became truly glad. After the meeting I returned through the Vale of Belvoir, and found several who were unfaithful to the Truth which they professed. I had a warning to them *to come up in faithfulness unto the Lord, or else their latter end would be miserable ; for the Lord would cast them off, and call others who would be more faithful.* When I was clear of that place, I travelled through Derbyshire, Manchester, Mankinholes, so to York Quarterly Meeting, and from thence home.

Soon after my return home, I was seized with sickness ; and many concluded I could not live. But the Lord was kind to me, by his secret hand, when in weakness of body : and upon serious search I found nothing but peace, and that I had got my day's work done so far. My eye was unto the Lord Jesus, in whom my justification remained ; and I found peace, and his words true by experience, " In me ye shall have peace, but in the world tribulation." The sense of it at that time was very comfortable, and engaged me to be given up to follow him faithfully unto the end ; for it is those that are faithful unto death, that will receive a crown of life.

Some time after my recovery, there came a concern upon me to visit some cities in England. I took my journey on the 1st of the Twelfth Month, 1700 ; travelled to the city of Chester, and was at their meeting : a marriage being there that day, abundance of people came, but behaved rudely. The word of life

was livingly declared, and the testimony of Truth exalted, whereby the unruly spirits were chained down. I travelled through Staffordshire into Worcestershire to Worcester city; from thence to Gloucester, and so to Bristol, and visited Friends, labouring in the work of the gospel: the word of life prevailed, and many hearts were reached by the power of Truth. After I had visited several parts of Gloucestershire, and had good service, I returned home to my family; was very diligent in attending meetings, both for worship and discipline, and visited meetings to and again in our own county.

Finding drawings in my mind to visit several remote parts in Scotland and Ireland, I took my journey on the 15th of the Eighth Month, 1701; some Friends accompanying me to the Border Meeting, where we had a comfortable season together. I was engaged to warn Friends *to be faithful to the Lord's requirings, and keep to the conduct of his Holy Spirit, that they might be guided in all their gifts to God's glory.* The day following Robert and Richard Lattimer went with me into Scotland, and accompanied me several days. As we travelled on the road to Dumfries, I had some words of exhortation to several on the road; and some took it kindly. We met one man (whom we passed quietly by,) who was so filled with anger against us, that he followed me, and cried out in great rage, that I was a deceiver, and was going to delude the people. I stopped my horse, and asked him, What he had to charge me with, I being a stranger to him, and he to me?—But he cried, Give me Scripture, or else I will not believe what thou sayest.—Seeing him full of envy, I told him, I had a Scripture for him, if he would hear it, which was, “Give not that which is holy unto the

dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you,"—Matt. vii. 6 ; which smote him so to the heart, that he was confounded, and left me.

When we got to Dumfries we had a meeting in the streets,* where some of the people were sober, but others very rude. I warned them *to repent and turn to the Lord while he strove with them by his Holy Spirit, lest the day of their visitation should pass over* : declaring unto them, *That the Lord was angry with the wicked every day ; and if they did not repent of their wickedness, all their talk of God, Christ, and*

* Samuel Bownas, who, (with his fellow-traveller in the work of the ministry, Isaac Thompson,) was in company with J. Dickinson, and R. and R. Lattimer at this time, makes the following mention of J. D., and of this meeting at Dumfries :—

"We went on with boldness and cheerfulness, meeting on the way with our dear and worthy friend, James Dickinson, who was intending a visit into Ireland. In our journey from the Border to Dumfries, we had very profitable conversation with him, of good service to us both ; because we, by reason of youth, and want of experience, were often very weak ; and doubting whether we were right or not in the work : so that this dear Friend, by his tender and fatherly care and advice, was of great encouragement, in letting us know how weak and poor *he* often found himself ; which so much answered my condition, that it was as marrow to my bones.

"When we came to Dumfries, after we had taken some refreshment at our inn, James said to us, 'Lads, I find a concern to go into the street, will you go with me?' For he thought it might only be to shew himself, and was desirous that we might go all together, being five in number. So we walked forth, and the inhabitants gazed upon us, for the Quakers were seldom seen in that town so many together : several came after us, and James lifted up his voice like a trumpet among the people, who were very quiet and attentive. When he was clear, we retired to our inn, and divers followed us, who were very rude and wicked, but were not permitted to hurt us. We had sweet comfort and refreshment one in another at our quarters."—*Life of Samuel Bownas.*

religion, would be in vain : for so long as people go on in rebellion against God's Holy Spirit, and give up their hearts to wickedness, their offerings are an abomination to him ; as they might read in Isaiah, chap. lxvi.

After the meeting, I had discourse with several people at the inn where we lodged. From thence proceeded on my journey towards Port Patrick, in order to take shipping for Ireland ; and as I travelled through Galloway, the states of the people were clearly manifested to me. I spoke to them, and warned them *to repent and prepare for their latter end* : several were reached and confessed to the Truth. On the Seventh day of the week we got to Stranraer, lodged at an inn, and staid there the First day. A concern came upon me to go into the streets. I went, and the Friends along with me ; we sat down on the market cross, (it being before the door of their worship house ;) and when the people came forth, it was upon me to pray unto the Lord on their behalf, *That he would be pleased to open their understandings, and give them the knowledge of himself, and their own states and conditions.* The priest and people came crowding about me. Afterwards I stood up, and declared the way of life and salvation to them ; warning all *to repent of their wickedness, and give up their hearts unto the Lord, that he might purify them by the spirit of judgment and burning ;* 'for' I said, *'until your minds are turned unto the inward manifestations of the Lord Jesus Christ, all your preaching, praying, and singing is but vain, and an abomination in his sight, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity with approbation.'* I directed them *to the light and grace of God in their own hearts, and to mind the operations thereof ; for it would teach them to deny ungodliness and the world's lusts, and to*

live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world ; letting them understand, that what is to be known of God is made manifest in man, for the Lord hath shewed it unto them. Most of the people staid until I had cleared myself of what was on my mind ; then we went back to the inn and had some discourse with the people of the house, who confessed that what I had declared was true.

Next morning I parted with the Friends in much sweetness of spirit. They returned home, and I travelled to Port Patrick, where I found the people very wicked. I had an opportunity with them at a burial : when the corpse was brought to the graveyard, the people behaved rudely, and were vain ; but my heart was filled with the love of God, and I was engaged in public testimony among them. The inhabitants came out of their houses and crowded about me. I opened unto them how they might come to the true knowledge of God ; and shewed them, according to the Scripture, that *He was not far from them ; "for God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness," as saith the apostle, "hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ,"* —2 Cor. iv. 6, 7 ; and that *was the true believers' treasure, and they had it in their earthen vessels.* So I directed all to *Christ, the word nigh in the heart and mouth, who was to be obeyed ;* and the hearts of several were reached by the power of God. After I had cleared myself, there came one to me and acknowledged to the Truth of what I had delivered ; and said, The people were rude because they had no minister in the place, nor none to instruct them.—I told him, They wanted the fear of God before their eyes, and the consideration of their latter end, other-

wise they would not have been so light and vain upon such a solid occasion.—Then the man desired me to go along with him to his house ; and finding freedom, I went, and found a woman there, who had a young child : her husband was gone over to Ireland, and she was going, with her child, after him. Understanding that I was a minister, she desired me to baptize her child ; and said she would pay me.—I told her, I did not preach for hire, but freely for the Lord's sake ; and as for baptizing her child, the Scriptures did not warrant me in it ; neither was I sent to baptize, but to preach the gospel, under a sense of a necessity the Lord had laid upon me. After some discourse, she seemed satisfied about it.

I then took boat for Ireland ; whilst at sea we had a very high wind and much rain, so that most on board were afraid we should be lost ; but I told them I did believe we should get safe across. The seamen were for returning back to Scotland : this appeared more dangerous than to continue our course for Ireland. I therefore entreated them to keep their course ; which they did, and we were favoured to land safe at Carrickfergus the next day. I travelled through the north part of that nation, and had meetings where no Friends dwelt. The Lord manifested his power, and gave me his word and strength to publish it ; so that some were convinced of the Truth. Being clear of the north, I travelled to Dublin ; was at their Half-Year's Meeting, and met with Friends from most parts of the nation. We had a comfortable time together : the affairs of the church were managed in love and condescension : the Lord crowned our assembly with his living presence, which bowed our hearts in thankfulness to him, the Fountain of all our mercies.

When this meeting was ended, I travelled to the province meeting in Munster ; visited that province, and had good satisfaction. Then I returned to Leinster province meeting, and found Friends zealous for the promotion of Truth, and maintaining good order and discipline in the church ; which was cause of gladness to my soul. Afterwards I was concerned to travel to many places in the province of Connaught, several Friends accompanying me. We had meetings at inns, and in places where no Friends lived : the testimony of Truth was freely declared, and the people directed to the light of Christ Jesus. Some strongly opposed the Truth, and others confessed thereunto. After I was clear of that province, I returned towards Mountmelick, in company with a Friend. When we were on the road, a great many Irish beset us, and one of them knocked the Friend down with a pitchfork. I, seeing him fall, alighted from my horse, and helped him up from under his horse's feet, he being bloody and not able to speak for some time. When he was a little recovered, I spoke to one of the men who stood by, who had set on the rest, and told him who he was, and that they would be called to an account for what they had done. So we went back to a house, and got the wound washed and bound up. He not being able to travel any further, I left him there, hired a guide, and went to Mountmelick ; where I spoke to a justice, and told him what usage we had met with on the road : he told me, He could do nothing for us, except I would swear to it ; then he would grant me a warrant to apprehend them.—I asked, If he did not believe I spoke the Truth !—he said, Yes ;—but that did not answer the law : so I left him. A little while after, the Friend recovered, and the men were taken and

punished by the magistrates. After I was clear of my service in that nation, I returned to Dublin, took shipping for Whitehaven, landed safe, went home and found my family well.

On the 17th of the Ninth Month, 1702, I had a concern upon me to visit Friends in the West of England, as far as Exeter; so took my journey, and travelled through several counties. The Lord favoured me with his living power, by which I was enabled to answer his requirings. I travelled hard, and passed through some danger by waters, it being winter; and when I was clear returned home with sweet peace.

I was often concerned to attend the Yearly Meeting in London; and had no greater pleasure than to feel the Lord's heart-melting power to prevail over me, and keep my mind in true resignation to answer his requirings. He was graciously pleased to favour us, and reach to us by his secret Arm of salvation; and brought us into a holy travail for the good of the churches of Christ the world over, that the testimony of Truth might be exalted, and every thing that would hinder the growth and prosperity of God's people subdued. And as I gave up freely to the Lord's requirings, I witnessed peace; which greatly engaged me to follow him faithfully wherever he was pleased to draw me.

In the year 1704, I was engaged to visit Friends in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Jonathan Burnyeat had the like concern, and we travelled together in sweet brotherly love. The Lord went before us, opened our service to us day by day, and enabled us to answer it; so that we found great encouragement to follow him fully. We had many meetings in these counties; exhorting Friends to *prize the day of their visitation*,

(seeing the Lord had been pleased to make known his way and Truth to them,) lest their day should pass over. We laboured to stir up all to faithfulness to the Lord ; and to wait to know their communion and fellowship to increase with him, and one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse them from all unrighteousness. Having finished this service, I returned to my wife and family in peace.

It was cause for thankfulness to find the secret hand of Providence attended us both inwardly and outwardly, and helped us to bear our testimony for Truth, both in doing and suffering. A law was now passed to recover tithes by warrant, and Friends were thereby brought into great suffering ; but the Lord was near to bear up, and give boldness to stand in our testimony against that anti-christian yoke ; and herein we found true peace. Many justices who were impropiators of tithes, laid heavy charges upon Friends ; and some who had very little, suffered deeply. For a demand of three half-pence, they would often lay on ten shillings charges, and to recover their claims, make spoil of Friends' goods. Many of their honest neighbours were troubled that such things should be, and would have paid for them ; but Friends held their refusal to pay, to be matter of faith and conscience, God's cause which he had entrusted us with, and not our own ; Christ having put an end to the first priesthood and fulfilled the law that gave tithes, and is himself a holy High Priest for ever, not after the order of Aaron, but after the order of Melchizedec. This being our faith, for which many Friends had suffered, and laid down their lives in nasty jails, we could not accept of this offer to pay for us, lest we should make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience, and lose our peace with God.

Great was my exercise many times for the promotion of Truth's testimony, and in standing against that which caused it to suffer. About this time there appeared some in our county very hot and zealous for order and discipline in the church, and busied themselves in church affairs. I saw they were going into Ranterism, and told Friends of it, desiring that endeavours might be used to help them, which was done ; but they refusing to take advice, ran out into strife and contention, and became bitter opposers of Friends and Truth, to their own irreparable loss. My spirit was deeply afflicted, and under great exercise ; but I could not help them. The Lord shewed me it was a false birth, begotten in them by the power of darkness, and that all who joined with them would be hurt ; but that they should proceed no further than to manifest their folly.

I had many journies on the account of the testimony God had given me to bear ; for whenever I found the Lord to draw me forth, I gave up in obedience thereunto. My dear wife was a true help-mate to me, and never hindered me at any time ; but often desired me *to mind my service, and answer it ; and let all other concerns give way to Truth's concerns.* We found godliness was truly "profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come," life everlasting ; so that we were encouraged to follow the Lord fully, and keep to his eternal power that had prevailed over us. And the more our eyes were kept to him, the greater necessity we found of the help of his Holy Spirit to keep us in our way heaven-wards ; knowing without him we could do nothing, and seeing our own infirmities to be great. But as we kept to the light and guidings of his Holy Spirit, we witnessed his

strength manifested in our weakness ; so that we were made to magnify that Arm which is strong, and as near to help his people as ever. Those who are alive to God know it ; and the reason why people know it not, is, because they do not turn to and mind the manifestation of the light of the Lord in themselves, and come to walk in it ; for “ to as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” —John i. 12. God is still faithful in fulfilling his promises ; and whatever they ask in his name, he gives them : such are bound in duty to return to him thanksgiving and glory, who is worthy thereof.

I had a concern, for several years, to visit Friends a third time, in America ; and understanding my ancient companion and fellow-labourer in the gospel, Thomas Wilson, had a concern for that land, I wrote to him, and we agreed to meet at Dublin. I acquainted my brethren with what I had upon my mind ; and they having unity with me therein, our hearts were broken and tendered before the Lord, and our prayers were poured forth unto him for one another's preservation. I agreed with Richard Kelsey of Whitehaven, for my passage ; and on the First day of the week, I, with my dear wife, went to our own meeting at Pardshaw-Cragg : there I received notice that the master had ordered all his men to be on board by the tenth hour at night, intending to sail that tide. We had a blessed, heavenly meeting ; after which I went to Whitehaven, my wife and several Friends accompanying me. We alighted at an inn, and had a sweet opportunity together ; then went down to the ship-side, where I parted with my wife and Friends, (except John Robinson and Joseph Steel, who in pure love, accompanied me to Dublin)

in much bowed-downness of mind before the Lord, in a sense of his love that had prevailed over me to answer his requirings ; in which I found my peace to flow abundantly. Then I went on board, and in two days' time arrived at Dublin, where I met with my dear companion, Thomas Wilson, who was ready to embark with me. We staid two weeks in Dublin, had a comfortable time among Friends, and parted with them in much love and tenderness.

On the 8th of the Tenth Month, 1713, we sailed for Virginia. The wind being southerly, we stood down the North Channel, and in three days' time got clear of the land : but soon after, we met with a hard gale of wind, and were driven to the northward, near Greenland ; so that we got but little on our voyage for several weeks. The master was very diligent and careful in the ship, and among his men, and respectful to us. He being a serious, thoughtful man, we had much discourse with him about religion ; and he was several times reached by the power of the Lord, and confessed to the Truth. The Lord was kind to us, filled our hearts with his love, and sweetened our exercises when upon the deep ocean. The wind favouring us, we got well into Lynhaven Bay within the Capes of Virginia, that day nine weeks we lost sight of Ireland ; then sailed up Chesapeake Bay into Rappahannoc River, and went on shore at Queen Anne's Town, on the 14th of the Twelfth Month, where we parted with our kind captain in great love. He spoke to us to take some of our provision along with us, and gave us loving counsel ; which counsel we took kindly.

After we landed, we found the people seemingly kind, went to a house and refreshed ourselves : from thence we hired horses to York River. Next day we

got over to the western shore, took our saddles, bags, and great coats, upon our shoulders, and travelled several miles : then met a man who knew me, and said he had best alight and take our things upon his horse ; which we kindly accepted. So he went along with us to James Bates's house, who received us gladly. It being their Week-day Meeting, we went along with them, though we were very weary with travelling ; yet the Lord remembered us in mercy, and we had a comfortable meeting with the few Friends there. Then we travelled through Virginia to North Carolina, and had many good meetings, both among Friends and others. Truth was manifested, and the gospel of life and salvation freely declared ; and we were comforted with our brethren. In Carolina we found a hopeful stock of young people, whom the Lord was qualifying for his service ; and they received the testimony of Truth with gladness : we also met with several who had been convinced when we laboured in these parts before ; and it was a great comfort to us to find them walking in the Truth.

After we were clear, we returned back to Chuckatuck, where we had a precious meeting ; then travelled towards Nancemond, and had good service : after which we visited Friends up James River, and so returned by Black Creek, and had several meetings. We directed the minds of people *unto the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the blessed teachings of his Holy Spirit*, which we found at work in the hearts of several, which was cause of gladness to us. Then we passed over Potomack River, travelled late, and got to a justice's house. He kindly invited us to stay all night, which we did, and had some religious discourse with him ; he was very friendly, and confessed

to the Truth. Next day we passed over Patuxent River, and visited Friends on the western shore of Maryland ; where we found great openness both among them and others. From thence we crossed the bay to the eastern shore, several Friends accompanying us : we travelled to Salem in Jersey, having many glorious meetings, the Lord's good presence still attending us ; and we staid the Yearly Meeting at Salem, which was large and to satisfaction. After we had visited the meetings on that side of Delaware River, we passed over to Philadelphia, and visited Friends in that city : the Lord's power was witnessed in our assemblies, and the doctrine of Truth largely opened. From thence we travelled to German Town, and visited the meetings of Friends in Pennsylvania, some of which were the largest I had ever been at : people flocked so to them, that several hundreds were forced to stand without doors, the meeting-house not being large enough to contain them. We preached unto them the doctrine of Truth, whereby the hearts of several were reached. Then we crossed over the River Delaware again, and visited Friends in the Jerseys. After which, we took boat at Woodbridge for New York ; from thence to Flushing, and so to the Yearly Meeting in Long Island, which began the 30th of the Third Month, and held four days : it was very large, and we had a good opportunity among Friends and others. Friends were in sweet unity, and the affairs of the church were managed in true brotherly love.

Being pressed in spirit to be at the Yearly Meeting at Rhode Island, we took shipping and arrived at Newport, the day before the meeting began. The universal love of God was held forth to the people, and many hearts were reached and tendered thereby.

After the meeting, we travelled to Taunton, and had a meeting there among the Presbyterians : many came and were generally well satisfied ; several were reached, and some convinced ; and a meeting is since settled there. From thence we travelled to Dartmouth : and finding a concern on my mind to go to the Yearly Meeting at Nantucket, I left my companion and took ship for that island. We were in some danger in passing through Woodse's Hole, which had a great many rocks in it ; but having a fresh gale of wind, we got well through ; the vessel struck ground several times, yet went off again without damage. Many of the inhabitants came to the meeting : the gospel was freely preached, and all directed *to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the word of his grace, that is still able to keep from evil, and give them a place among them that are sanctified.* The people were generally sober, and some were convinced.

Being clear, I took shipping for Dartmouth ; but meeting with a contrary wind, got to a harbour : and understanding there would be a meeting the next day at a Friend's house, about eight miles distant, I left the vessel and travelled along with the Friend to Daniel Butler's house, and staid there all night. Next morning went along with the Friends to the meeting : many sober people came, the testimony of Truth was declared, and the Lord's power witnessed to our comfort. After the meeting, I proceeded to Sandwich, where I met with my companion. We travelled through the country to Boston, and had some meetings to satisfaction as we went. At Boston we had several meetings ; the testimony of Truth was declared, and the way of life and salvation manifested ; and several were reached and affected thereby.

From thence we went to Lynn, Salem, and the eastern parts of New England, as far as Dover ; setting forth to the people that *the love of God was extended unto them in order for their salvation*. The priests were enraged against us, and laboured to keep the people from coming to our meetings ; but Truth prevailed, and abundance of people flocked to hear the gospel preached ; so that several were convinced, and the mouths of gainsayers stopped. After we had cleared ourselves there, we returned back to Boston and had several meetings : Truth prevailed, many hearts were affected, and divers convinced. From thence we travelled to the Yearly Meeting at Providence : there came several rude and disorderly persons ; but we warned them *to repent of their wickedness and turn to the Lord*. The power of the Lord came mightily over the people, and we had a glorious, heavenly meeting. From thence we travelled to Rhode Island, and had several meetings in our way.

After our service was over in that place, we parted with Friends, and returned by water to Long Island ; being desirous to be at the Yearly Meeting at Burlington, which is held there for West Jersey and Pennsylvania. We took shipping at Newport, and were nine days at sea ; had a meeting on board, and had several opportunities to vindicate our principles : some were reached by the Truth. We landed at Flushing, had a meeting there, and several more on the Island : abundance of people attended them ; the Lord's power was eminently witnessed, and the hearts of the faithful truly comforted. From thence we went to New York, several friends accompanying us ; and we had a precious meeting there : then crossed over to Elizabeth Town by sea ; so travelled to Woodbridge and had good service there : many hearts

were reached by the Truth, and some convinced. Then we travelled through Jersey to Pennsylvania again, where we met with John Salkeld and John Wright at the Falls meeting, who were travelling in Truth's service. The next day, we were at their Quarterly Meeting, and encouraged Friends to keep to the good order established among us ; the Lord owned us, and filled our hearts with love to him and one another. After the meeting, we travelled towards the wilderness, and visited Friends in North Wales : we had several meetings in the country thereabouts, and many were reached and convinced of God's blessed Truth. At Nottingham we had a large and heavenly meeting ; it was held in the woods, because the house was not large enough to contain the people. From thence we came back by way of New Garden, were at a marriage there, and had good service in opening to the people the way of life and salvation ; and shewed them *it was the Lord that joined people, and not the work of any priest under the law, nor minister under the gospel, but the parties concerned by consent ; and those that were present were witnesses, as in the case of Boaz and Ruth* : the Lord owned us, and Truth came up into dominion.

We travelled to Philadelphia, took boat and went to Burlington Yearly Meeting ; where the Lord owned us with his living presence, and we had a glorious season together. The meeting held five days ; and there was such a concourse of people that we had two meetings at once, one at the court-house, and the other at Friends' meeting-house. The affairs of Truth were managed in love and meekness, to the edification of the church. We parted in love, returned to Philadelphia, and visited the out-corners of Pennsylvania. Afterwards we proceeded to the Yearly

Meeting on the eastern shore of Maryland, which held four days : we had good service and came away in peace of mind. Then we visited the lower counties of Pennsylvania, where we had many precious meetings, and several were convinced of the Truth. We returned again to Philadelphia ; and after some stay in and about that city, we parted with Friends in the love of God, travelled down to Oxford, in Maryland, and agreed with the master of a vessel for our passage to England : but not being fully clear, we were desirous to have staid a little longer. The master told us, his signal for sailing should be the firing of a gun, and so we might stay till then ; but we were called on board before we had quite gone through our service.

On the 7th of the Ninth Month, 1714, we took shipping at Oxford ; and within two days after we set sail, the ship sprung a leak. We were greatly exercised in our spirits, and treated with the captain to return back, in order to get the leak stopped ; but he and the rest of the officers resolved to proceed on their voyage. The wind being contrary, they could get little forward, but rode at anchor ; in which time we told the captain, *it appeared to us that Divine Providence had put the opportunity into his hand, whereby he might save his own life, and all that were with him, and the ship too.* When we had got about twenty leagues from the land, we were becalmed ; and the leak increased so, that she made near two feet water in half an hour ; then they all repented that they did not take our advice. We were deeply exercised, and poured forth our prayers unto the Almighty ; who was graciously pleased to grant our petition, and caused a gentle south wind to blow the next day ; and the leak stopped so as the pumps kept

her clear ; and after some difficulty we got to an anchor in Lynhaven bay.

We went on shore the 25th of the Ninth Month, and the next day got among Friends. They were glad to see us ; and our hearts were deeply thankful to the Almighty for so signal a preservation. We laboured in the work of the gospel at Nancemond, where several hearts were thoroughly reached by the penetrating power of God. After which, we visited several places remote from the body of Friends ; then crossed James River, and visited Friends in York county ; we had several meetings, to which abundance of people came : the doctrine of Truth was declared, and several convinced, which was cause of gladness to us. From thence we travelled into the county of Kent, where we had laboured in the work of the ministry twenty-three years before : several were then convinced, and a meeting settled from that time. We rejoiced to find people gathered to God ; and we had many precious meetings in those parts. We travelled next into the county of Westmoreland ; had good service there, and found great openness among the people : several were convinced of the Truth, the mouths of gainsayers were stopped, and the testimony of Truth exalted over all. Then we found our hearts engaged to visit Friends on the western shore of Maryland ; so travelled to Potomack River, which we got over with some difficulty and charge ; being willing to spend and be spent to answer the Lord's requirings ; who had been kind to us and his people, in blessing us both inwardly and outwardly. Friends were willing to accompany us ; and we were truly thankful unto the Lord, that he had raised up a people, and made them willing to serve him : for when we travelled in

those parts in 1692, we had no guide for a hundred miles, and lay out in the woods ; yet we travelled in faith that the Lord would spread his Truth, and exalt it in the earth. We saw it fulfilled in part ; and firmly believe that he will carry it on to his own glory. We took our journey through the woods, and lodged at a poor man's house that night. We gave him money for his kind entertainment : he told us he had entertained many, but never had taken any thing before : we told him we were not willing to be chargeable to any, but would freely pay him.

We travelled to Patuxent River, and had a meeting on the First day : it was a day of visitation to the youth, whose hearts were opened by the love of God, in which we laboured to turn their minds to his teaching. We made a thorough visit on the western shore : many flocked to our meetings and heard the gospel freely declared, and the principles of Truth laid open : several were convinced, and the faithful comforted in the Lord. Then we passed over the river to the eastern shore, and had a meeting ; to which abundance of people came, that were not Friends. The Lord appeared to our comfort, and we had good service in many places in those parts. Being clear of that shore, several young men got a boat, and set us over the bay. It being very foggy, we landed at Sharp's Island, and went on shore : the young men made a fire near the boat, and lay by it all night ; my companion and I went to a house upon the island, where we staid until the next morning. The people were very loving, and would take nothing for our bed. Then we took boat, and through some difficulty got to West River, and had several meetings among Friends : we laboured in the love of God, *to settle them upon Christ, the Rock and Foundation.*

After which, finding our spirits fully clear, we concluded to take shipping for England. There being a ship bound for London, we agreed for our passage ; went on board on the 10th of the Twelfth Month, 1714, and on the 17th of the same, weighed anchor, and came out of the Capes of Virginia. We had a good passage till we came near the coasts of Ireland, where we met with a small ship bound for Cork : we left the ship we were in and went on board the small vessel. Afterwards we met with a contrary wind, and were seven days at sea ; then landed safe at Cork, on the 30th of the First Month, 1715. We staid a meeting with Friends at Cork, and the Lord's power was manifested among us ; his love melted our hearts, and prepared sacrifices of praises to the God and Father of all our mercies, who with his dear Son, is worthy thereof.

After the meeting, we took our journey towards the province meeting at Mountmelick, and with hard travel got there on the First day. Friends were settled in the meeting before we went in : the Lord's power overshadowed the meeting in a wonderful manner, so that we were sweetly comforted together. After this meeting, I parted with my dear companion, Thomas Wilson, in the love of God, and went with Friends to Dublin. The next day, had a meeting to satisfaction : after which I took shipping, sailed that night, and landed next evening at Whitehaven, and was at our own meeting at Pardshaw Cragg ; where Friends were glad to see me returned safely from so long a journey ; and we were comforted in the Lord and one another.

In all this voyage and journey, we were highly favoured with health for the most part, and way was made for us far beyond what we could expect ; having

travelled by sea and land about 12,000 miles. At my return home, I found my wife and family well, for which I was truly thankful: the Lord who separated us for his name sake, brought us together again to our great comfort; which caused us to admire his goodness, and to bless his most worthy name.

I staid but a few weeks at home before I took my journey for London; having drawings in my mind to be at the Yearly Meeting there. I travelled through Yorkshire, and had several meetings as I went along, which were to the satisfaction and comfort of Friends. I got to London the day before the meeting began, and met with several brethren from Ireland, and most parts of this nation. The Lord crowned our assemblies with his living presence, and filled our hearts with the joy of his salvation.

In the year 1717, I passed through various exercises, yet the Lord's power supported and enabled me to stand in my testimony both in doing and suffering. A concern increased in my mind for the peace and welfare of the church, and that every thing might be kept out which would hurt the growth and prosperity thereof. We were greatly exercised in our county with many filthy and unclean spirits; and much abused by them both in meetings and out of meetings. I went to the Yearly Meeting for the northern counties, held at Chester, which was to the satisfaction and comfort of Friends.

On the 29th of the Third Month, I took my journey from my own house to the Yearly Meeting in London, and had service at several places on the road. I got to London the night before the meeting began, and met with brethren from several parts of this nation and Ireland. The meeting was large; and

Friends were zealously concerned for the prosperity of Truth, and that every thing might be kept out of the church which would hinder the growth thereof. We had many precious seasons, and were comforted in the Lord.

After the meeting, I was engaged by the love of God, to visit several parts of this nation. At Reading, Friends were under a great exercise with a rending, dividing spirit, that many were betrayed into ; yet the Lord's power came over them, and they who had gone out into separation, left their meeting and returned to Friends again. My travail among them was, *That all might be baptized down, as into the bottom of Jordan, there to be purged from their uncleanness ; and so be fitted for the camp of God, and know him to tabernacle with them.* The Lord's power was manifested among us, to the comfort of all who truly loved it. Then I travelled to Newbury ; and through Wiltshire to Bristol. My exercise was, *That all might be sensible of the work of the Lord to sanctify and fit them for his kingdom.* I saw the fields ripe unto harvest, which was great, and the faithful labourers therein were but a few : my cries went forth unto the Lord, *That he would fit many, and send them forth into his harvest.* He was near to answer, and to bow the spirits of many under the operation of his hand ; of which I was glad, under a sense of his great love to mankind. After I was clear of that city, I returned homewards ; visited many places, and had good satisfaction.

Having some drawings to visit Friends and others in Northumberland and Durham, on the 11th of the Eleventh Month, 1717, I took my journey and went to Wigton ; and was exercised with some ranting spirits : yet the Lord's power came over them, and

the faithful were comforted. Then I travelled to Carlisle, and from thence to Alstone, where I found several who were convinced of the Truth, and brought forth in public testimony : it was cause of gladness to me, thus to behold the Lord's work to prosper. After which I passed on through Allondale, where I found some young people convinced, and hopeful to do well. Then I travelled to Newcastle, and warned people *to give up their hearts unto the Lord*. From thence I went to Shields and Sunderland, where I met with Thomas Story, who was travelling upon Truth's account, and had been above three years from his own habitation ; having visited Friends in America, and many parts of England, Wales, Holland, Scotland, and Ireland. I was glad to see him, and to hear of the prosperity of Truth in those parts. After which, I proceeded on my journey to Stockton, Darlington, Auckland, and Raby, visiting Friends ; and being clear I returned home.

Some time after my return, I went to our Quarterly Meeting at Carlisle ; and so to the Yearly Meeting at Kendal, which was large. Several people of other persuasions came into the meeting, who were sober and attentive, and pretty much affected with the testimonies that were borne : the meeting ended well, and to good satisfaction.

On the 17th of the Third Month, 1718, I took my journey for the Yearly Meeting in London along with Peter Fearon. We had several meetings as we went ; and in London we met with Friends from several parts of this nation and Ireland, who were come to attend that meeting. We laboured together for the good of the church ; and the Lord was with us, and enabled us to go through our respective services to his glory, and our mutual edification.

After the meeting I returned home to my family, and found peace; as I always did in answering that service I believed the Lord required of me. When I was at liberty I laboured diligently in my outward business, not only because of the benefit I received therefrom, but that I might be exemplary among my neighbours.

A concern having been upon my mind for some time, to visit the western parts of England, I took my journey on the 2nd of the Ninth Month, 1718, and visited several counties as far as Bristol, and had service in that city: after which I travelled into Devonshire; then returned to Bristol, and from thence I travelled through Wiltshire, by way of Reading, to London. After some stay in and about that city, I returned home, having had many precious meetings among my brethren. My labour and travail was, *to encourage the faithful, stir up the backward, and warn the wicked to repent, and turn to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Finding myself engaged to visit Friends in the nation of Ireland once more, on the 23rd of the Eighth Month, 1722, I set forward on my journey, and went to David Hodgson's [near Carlisle,] in company with several Friends. Next morning we met John Urwen,* (who had the like concern with me,) at

* "John Urwen was born at Parkrigg, in the north of Cumberland. He was educated in a sober, religious manner, and was favoured with the visitations of divine love in his early years, whereby he was engaged to seek the Lord, and to love him above all. About the twenty-eighth year of his age, he was called to the ministry. His testimony for some time was not large, but very edifying and acceptable: and as he kept in pure, humble dependence upon the Lord, he improved in his gift greatly, and, in due time became a truly evangelical minister. He was often

Allason's Bank in Scotland ; and proceeding to Dumfries we lodged there. Next morning the Friends who came to accompany me returning home, we continued our journey, and found the people high in notion, and bent against the Truth, which occasioned us to mourn before the Lord. We then went to Baldown to William Boyges's, and had a comfortable meeting there on the First day. The day following we travelled to Port Patrick, where we staid some time, (the wind being contrary,) under great exercise of spirit, because of the wickedness of the people. We had a meeting among them at a widow's house where we lodged, and the gospel was freely preached unto them ; some were affected therewith, and confessed to the Truth, which filled our hearts with thankfulness unto the Lord, who made way for us to clear our consciences among them. On the First day of the week my companion had a concern upon him to go to their worship house, and I found

in those small meetings [of his own neighbourhood,] powerfully engaged in the ministry ; also in fervent supplication, in which he was favoured with near access to the Almighty. His services in the discipline were likewise weighty ; for being a man of great natural abilities, and those sanctified, and made subservient to the Truth, he became singularly eminent in the church.—He repeatedly visited Friends of this nation, Scotland and Ireland.—In the latter part of his time, Divine Wisdom permitted him to be deeply tried in divers respects: he went through evil report and good report: but the Lord was with him, enabling him to bear all with calmness and Christian fortitude, and to persevere faithfully many years after, both in the ministry and the discipline of the church.—Some time before his departure he said, that *nothing stood in his way ; and that if he had his life to live over again, he did not well know how to do better.*—He died at Mossie, in Cumberland, in the year 1762, aged about 86, and a minister 58 years."—*Testimony of Carlisle Monthly Meeting.*

it my place to go with him. After the priest had done, my companion stood up to clear himself of what was upon his mind ; but the priest, contrary to his promise, that 'he should be heard,' went out, and ordered all the rest to follow him, or else the door should be locked : so they all came out, and we found ourselves clear, and came away in peace.

Next day we took boat for Ireland, and had a great storm at sea, and were in danger of being cast away ; but the Lord preserved us, and we arrived safe on shore ; and went next day to Lisnagarvy, where Friends were glad to see us. We travelled through the north, and had many precious meetings. After we were clear of the north, we proceeded to Edenderry, visiting meetings all along ; labouring in that ability God gave us, for the stirring up of all to faithfulness. We went from thence to the province meeting at Carlow. After our service there, we travelled into the counties of Wicklow and Waterford, and had many blessed seasons in those parts ; labouring to gather people to God's teaching, and to turn them from that of Satan. Then we travelled to Ross, and through several places to the province meeting at Cork, which was large. The affairs of the church were carried on and managed in the peaceable spirit of Christ, and the meeting ended well. After which we visited Friends in the county of Limerick ; then travelled to the province meeting at Mountmelick ; and from thence to my former dear companion Thomas Wilson's, and were sweetly refreshed together in the enjoyment of God's love. We parted with him in much tenderness at Edenderry, travelled to Dublin, and had some service there.

Finding ourselves clear of that city we took ship-

ping for England. On our voyage we had a great storm, and cast anchor in Ramsey bay. The wind was so strong that we could not raise our anchor, and in the night, another ship was driven upon the bow of ours; our bow-sprit got between her main-mast and mizen-mast, and she was like to have driven us from our anchor; but our men cut their mizen-shrouds, and we got clear one of another, which was a great mercy; for had it been otherwise, we might all have perished. Thus the Lord's arm was made bare for our help; and we landed safe at Parton in Cumberland. The next day, I parted with my companion, returned home and found my family well. Thus was I brought under renewed obligation to return praise and thanksgiving to the holy name of the Lord, who had helped me through my travels, been with my dear wife, and brought us together again, with an increase of peace in our bosoms. I staid at home some time, and was very diligent in attending meetings, and visiting Friends to and again in our county.

After this, a concern came upon me to visit Friends in the west of England. My wife at this time being under great weakness of body, I was unwilling to leave her; but she bid me *answer what the Lord required of me, and not let any thing hinder my service; for life is in the hand of the Lord, and he can give or take away at his pleasure.* So I gave up to the Lord's requirings, in which I witnessed peace. I set forth on my journey with William Dixon,* a Friend of

* "William Dixon, resided at Waterend, in Loweswater, Cumberland. He was descended of believing parents, and educated in the way of Truth. It pleased the Lord to visit him in his tender age, and he freely gave up to follow his leadings. About the twenty-first or twenty-second year of his age, he came forth

our meeting, who had the like concern with me. We travelled through Lancashire, and the west parts of England, as far as the Land's end : our labour was, *to turn people to the Lord, and settle them on his teachings.* We found an openness in many places to receive the testimony of Truth, for which we were truly thankful : after which, finding ourselves clear, we returned home.

On the 2nd of the Tenth Month, 1726, I set forward on my journey, and William Dixon along with me, to visit Friends in Yorkshire. We had a meeting at Soulby, among some people who had been hurt by a wrong spirit, and were gone into separation from Friends ; yet we found the riches of the love of God unto them, and several hearts were touched therewith. We went to Penrith that evening, and had a meeting there, to which several of the Separates, and abundance of other people came. The Lord's power was manifested, and the testimony of Truth declared : we directed them *to the light of the Lord Jesus Christ which shineth in their hearts, in*

in public testimony ; and being faithful to the gift bestowed upon him, he grew and became very serviceable. He travelled pretty much in his early coming forth, into most of the adjacent counties, as also in some western counties. He was rather backward in appearance ; but his doctrine was sound, and often dropped as the dew, and distilled as the rain on the tender plants ; and he was very fervent in his approaches in prayer. He was of a weakly constitution, and about the thirty-sixth year of his age, fell into a decline. During his illness, among other sweet expressions he said, '*I am satisfied when this poor body goes to the dust, there is a place of rest prepared for my soul. Oh ! it is good to make use of time. I rejoice that I die in unity with my friends, and that the Lord is now near me.*' He died in the year 1734, and thirty-seventh of his age."—*Testimony of Cumberland Quarterly Meeting.*

order to give them the knowledge of God, whom to know is life eternal. Many hearts were reached, and we had the answer of peace for our labours of love among them. After which we went to Strickland and had a meeting there, which was to satisfaction ; and from thence to Swaledale, Richmond, and several parts of Yorkshire, to the Quarterly Meeting at York, where we met with John Salkeld, who was come from America to visit Friends in England. At this meeting I laid before Friends *the necessity there was to take care to preserve the accounts of Friends' sufferings, and of their exercises and deep trials they had undergone for the testimony the Lord had given them to bear : and how he had made manifest his eternal power for their help, and wrought wonders for their deliverance ; that those accounts might be serviceable to future generations :* and the Quarterly Meeting took notice of it, and agreed that it should be offered to the Yearly Meeting in London. I had offered the same to our Quarterly Meeting in Cumberland, [which meeting] agreed with me. Afterwards we travelled to the Quarterly Meetings at Lancaster and Kendal ; both of which meetings agreed with me in my proposition for collecting the accounts of Friends' sufferings. Then being clear of what was upon our minds, we returned home, and found things well, which was cause of gladness to me.

After I had staid some time at home, I took shipping at Whitehaven for the Half-Year's Meeting at Dublin, at which meeting I offered the concern which was upon my mind, *for putting Friends' sufferings in order for future service.* The meeting took it under consideration, and became zealously concerned that care might be taken for preserving the records of Friends' sufferings, for the benefit of future ages ;

that they might know how the Lord had raised up a people, who were no people, to bear testimony to his name and Truth upon earth, not only to believe, but also to suffer for it. After the meeting was over, I returned home.

In the year 1727, I travelled to the Yearly Meeting at Chester, which was large ; and many testimonies were borne, directing all to the Lord's teachings : after which I travelled through several counties to the Yearly Meeting at Bristol ; still labouring in that ability God gave me, *to gather people to the teachings of his Holy Spirit*. From thence I travelled to the Yearly Meeting in London ; and laid the concern which had been upon my mind for some time, about *collecting and printing an account of the deep sufferings which Friends had undergone ; that they might be transmitted to future ages for a testimony of the great favours and mercies of God to his faithful people*. The meeting saw it was necessary, and the same was soon after proceeded upon. Then I got ease of the concern which had been so long upon me. After the meeting was over, visiting some meetings in my way, I returned home and found things well ; for which I was made humbly thankful to the Lord, who provided for me both inwardly and outwardly ; blessed be his holy name for ever.

And thus ended, as far as appears, the writings of this worthy man ; for after the year, 1727, we find no account, though he travelled several times to the Yearly Meeting in London, and through many parts of this nation ; but being seized about that time with a paralytic disorder, *that* might probably be the reason that he committed no more to writing.

In the year 1726, his wife died, which was a great

loss to him, (his bodily infirmities considered ;) but he bore it with patience, and resignation unto the divine will, believing it was her great and everlasting gain.

He was very constant in attending the Quarterly Meetings in this county, and also the meetings for worship and discipline he belonged to, even when under great weakness of body ; which is a convincing testimony of his steady and unshaken zeal for the promotion of Truth, and the good of souls.

About a year before his death, his distemper, the palsy, increased upon him to such a degree that he lost the use of one side, and his speech was in a great measure taken from him ; yet he had small intervals, in which he seemed to surmount the decays of sinking nature, and appeared in a sweet and heavenly disposition of mind ; intimating that *his day's work was done ; and that God, whom he had served, was still with him ; that he had the evidence of peace and future felicity sealed upon his soul, and was only waiting to be removed ; but was fully resigned unto the Lord to wait his time : and leaning upon the divine Arm of consolation, his afflictions and exercises became more easy to him.*

He departed this life on the 6th day of the Third Month, 1741, and was buried on the 8th of the same, at Friends burying-ground at Eaglesfield, in the county of Cumberland.

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